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RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

☞ Letters on Business, Subscriptions, &c., address COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

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The Weekly Commercial, a large sheet containing all the Current News, Miscellaneous, Literary and Scientific Intelligence, and Valuable Reading for the family.

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WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 30, 1875.

Intervention in Cuba—An Explanation.

The cabled statement that the United States had asked the views of foreign Governments on the contemplated intervention in the affairs of Cuba, is calculated to create a false impression. It is ascertained that the action of the Government was simply in the ordinary routine of diplomatic business, and was not a formal proposition. It is customary to ascertain the views of foreign Governments in an informal manner through our representatives abroad. The United States, in their international relations, are not given to seeking counsel or advice from European nations. The only countries that could have any possible interest in the affairs of this hemisphere are Spain herself and England, the possessions of other countries being unimportant. Within the last half century Spain, through her intolerance, has lost a vast Empire in America, but the remnants of that she still has left. England, while maintaining her possessions, has repeatedly indorsed that at any time her dependencies in American are at liberty to sever their connection with the mother country. During the first quarter of the present century the South American colonies of Spain declared their independence, and were recognized by the United States, after the struggle had been maintained for a time with little hope of success. A proposition on the part of a European Government to interpose called forth the celebrated enunciation of opinion by President Monroe, in his seventh annual message, December 2d, 1823, and since adopted as the policy of the United States and popularly styled the "Monroe Doctrine." The views of Monroe were, briefly, that during the progress of disturbances in Europe the United States did not interpose; that it was their duty, however, to oppose all foreign interference in the affairs of this continent, and any such interference would be a just cause of apprehension and action on the part of the United States. The European Governments took the hint and observed it. Forty years later the French usurpation in Mexico was the first interference with this American doctrine, and its disastrous results are known. Sheridan and his hundred and fifty thousand veterans were a sufficient argument to induce the force to summarily withdraw. This lesson will doubtless be a sufficient practical illustration of the meaning of the Monroe doctrine, as applied to ambitious European monarchies. The course of our Government in the present instance is considered in strict accordance with the traditional policy of the United States, it being deemed that the public interest demands a speedy settlement of the pending strife in Cuba. The apparent activity of Spain causes no alarm here, and so far as any alliance with any European power against American intervention is concerned that is considered out of the question. There will doubtless soon be a large representation of foreign flags in Cuban waters to watch the progress of events.

Applicants for the Latest Vacancies.

The unfavorable tenor of the investigation of the Sugg Fort and Witowski cases having resulted in the request for the resignations of Second Comptroller Brodhead and Third Auditor Rutherford, there are a number of applicants on hand for both offices. Among these may be mentioned Henry C. Rogers, of Pennsylvania, Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue, and Assistant Solicitor Robinson. It is not likely that Mr. Rogers, though a competent officer, will get it, as it is considered that Pennsylvania has her fair share in the higher offices of the Treasury.

The Ways and Means Committee

will meet next Tuesday for organization and the apportionment of business. Any attempt to increase taxation would be opposed by the Republican members, while any efforts of the free traders to reconstruct the duties would also be a failure, as the revenues of the Government are now barely sufficient.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 31, 1875.

Internal Revenue Receipts.

The Internal Revenue Bureau is engaged in balancing up the accounts of the first half of the present fiscal year, which terminated at the close of business to-day. The receipts for the six months just ended and for the same period last year, were: For 1875, $47,000,000; for 1874, $50,500,000. The estimate of receipts for the fiscal year is $122,000,000, which leaves a balance, after deducting the aggregate of the last six months, of $25,000,000. This will not only be fully made up, but, with the indications of increased collections, there will be a large excess of receipts over estimates. The receipts are just recovering from the reaction produced by the 1st of March, 1875, providing an increase of taxes. It is also during this last period of the fiscal year that the special taxes are collected. It is further believed by the Commissioner that the breaking up of the great whisky ring of St. Louis and Chicago and the lesser rascally combinations of a similar character in other sections, will largely augment the revenues from distilled spirits and contribute an increased proportion to the grand total of the fiscal year.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 2, 1876.

Strength and Disposition of the Army.

The following statement is furnished as showing the disposition of the military forces, it having been alleged by the Democrats, who seem not to have received enough of the bayonet, that the army has been used for political purposes in the South. The military establishment by law is fixed at 25,000 men. The total number at this date in service is 2,058 commissioned officers and 22,796 enlisted men. The signal service consists of a total of 454 non-commissioned officers and privates. There are also on the retired lists, by reason of various acts of Congress, 294 officers. The company proper consists therefore of 24,750 rank and file.

In the Department of the Missouri there are sixty-three companies of cavalry and infantry, embracing 3,288 rank and file. In the Department of Dakota, sixty-three companies of infantry and cavalry, comprising 3,357 rank and file. In the Department of Texas, which includes the Mexican frontier, 1,900 miles long, from Fort Brown to Fort Bliss, sixty-seven companies of cavalry and infantry—3,371 rank and file. In the Department of the Gulf, which comprises the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas and Florida, 133 companies of artillery, cavalry and infantry—1,408 rank and file. In the Department of the Platte, which includes the most exposed Indian frontier, sixty companies of cavalry and infantry—3,335 rank and file. In the Military Division of the Atlantic, including the defenses of the great seaports on that coast, thirty-six companies of artillery and six of infantry—2,044 rank and file. In the Department of California, nineteen companies of artillery, cavalry and infantry—1,093 rank and file. In the Department of the Columbia, twenty-one companies of artillery, infantry and cavalry—1,102 rank and file. In the Department of Arizona, twenty-five companies of infantry and cavalry—1,480 rank and file. In the Military Division of the South, Georgia, part of Florida, Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky, thirty-four companies of artillery and infantry—1,859 rank and file. In these different departments are no less than one hundred and sixty-nine garrisoned forts. In addition to these, there are sixty-one fortified posts in charge of ordnance sergeants or under the engineer corps. There are also nineteen arsenals to be taken care of. This official statement would show that the army, as at present constituted, had enough and more than enough to do.

Coming Senatorial Elections.

The Senatorial elections in Mississippi, Kentucky and Iowa are a subject of interest to many here. Lamar telegraphs from Mississippi that he has no doubt of his election. In Kentucky the contest is reported so divided up that no opinion can be formed. In Iowa Harlan is on the ground and confident. Belknap will leave here in a few days to look after his interests in that quarter.

Emigration from Germany.

The depletion of Germany of the flower of her population by emigration to the United States has long been a matter of concern to the Emperor and the capitalists, manufacturers and land owners of the Empire. Many of the Western States, and in fact the United States, too, have published in the German language pamphlets on the resources of the country and on other topics of interest, which have been widely circulated with a view to the encouragement of emigration. Some States have agents residing at different points in the Empire to give information and to superintend the shipment of emigrants. The German Government for some years has had this subject under consideration, and has attempted, without success, measures to keep the population at home. It has been learned here that the German Government contemplates taking steps to prevent the circulation of these documents.

As to Financial Legislation.

The probability of legislation on the finances, in the opinion of leading members of both Houses and of both parties, is not great. There is no doubt, however, that there will be some debate on the question during the session. The Democrats are extremely concerned on this question, and are evidently anxious to dodge it if they can.

Colorado's Constitution.

Advices from Colorado say that the Constitution now under discussion promises to be more of a success than the previous attempts in that line. The Constitution of 1864 was defeated, and the one subsequently prepared fell in consequence of the veto by Johnson of the bill for the admission of the Territory. After two experiences, it is believed that the Constitution of the Centennial State will be a model.

The Centennial Appropriation.

The return of the members after the Christmas holidays shows that their presence among their constituents has confirmed their determination to make handsome appropriation for the benefit of the Centennial.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 3, 1876.

The Cuban Circular.

It is learned that the circular to foreign Governments in reference to the situation of affairs in Cuba, was a direct declaration of the United States of an intention to intervene, but so penned as to admit of an expression of opinion on the subject. This was also accompanied by instructions to diplomatic officers of the United States to communicate the feelings of the Government a year ago, when they resided. It is learned that previous to the issue of this diplomatic note a voluminous correspondence on the subject was had with the English Government. It is not known, however, whether this had reference to cooperation, or whether it was simply to fully advise that nation of the purposes of the United States, the English Government having greater interests on this continent than any other European power.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 1, 1875.

SECOND COMPTROLLER OF TREASURY.

Governor Carpenter, of Iowa, who has accepted the post of Second Comptroller of the Treasury, is a man of forty-five years, a good lawyer of sound judgment, thoroughly upright and with backbone. His appointment is very highly commended here by all who know him.

A WEEKLY LIST OF UNITED STATES PATENTS

issued to the inventors of Pennsylvania and Ohio, for the week ending December 28, 1875. Reported by telegraph expressly for the COMMERCIAL, by A. H. Evans & Co., Patent Solicitors, May building, Washington, D. C.:

PENNSYLVANIA.

G. O. Clark, Philadelphia—Mail bag.
L. Houston, Montgomery—Planing machine.
H. R. Morgan, Erie—Reed organ attachment.
F. P. Musser, Beaver Falls—Book support for arm chairs.
J. and Rhoads, Philadelphia—Station ventilator.
E. T. Starr, Philadelphia—Head rest for dentel chairs.
D. Louis, Philadelphia—Washing machine.
J. Shepard, Allegheny—Cigar cutter.
J. P. Smith, Philadelphia—Furniture exhibitor.
W. Chandler, Philadelphia—Lower shuttle box mechanism.
J. F. Flanagan, Philadelphia—Cork stopper.
A. F. Hammond, Philadelphia—Hitch coupling.
A. French, Philadelphia—Lamp.
G. Godley, Philadelphia—Car ventilator.
H. G. Rhines, Allegheny—Corn husking machine.
W. L. Hardison, St. Petersburg—Petroleum well.
W. L. Hardison, St. Petersburg—Packer for oil wells.
Reissue—W. W. Hubbell, Philadelphia—Pavement.
Design—T. B. Atterbury, Pittsburgh—Glass shade.
W. A. Duff, Philadelphia—Flag.
S. Phelzer, Philadelphia—Breastpin.

OHIO.

I. N. Foote, Middletown—Truss pad.
J. W. Chase, Middleport—Cultivator.
J. Kerby, Cleveland—Operating car brakes.
J. Capstack, Barnsville—Twisting machine.
L. M. Tilby, Ashtabula—Car coupling.
Reissue—S. C. Tolcott, Ashtabula—Measuring packaged fabrics.

CRIMINAL RECORD.

A Whole Family Murdered.

NEW YORK, December 30.—Late this morning an officer was called to No. 356, West Fifty-third street, where he found a man named Meyers and his wife and child in bed, the former insensible, and the child dead, from pistol shot wounds. It is supposed that Meyers did the shooting.

The City Treasurer of Buffalo Goes Away With a Big Slice.

BUFFALO, N. Y., December 30.—Joseph Bork, city Treasurer, left for New York yesterday, giving as a reason that he wanted to raise money to meet personal obligations, but in fact, as was subsequently learned, to escape the immediate consequences of a heavy defalcation. It is impossible at present to determine the extent of the defalcation, but it is thought to be about a quarter of a million dollars. His second term of office, thirty-five days to a close, so that for four years he has had control of the city's funds. Five million, three hundred and thirty-five of the most prominent and wealthy citizens. Before taking his departure, Bork made a general assignment of his property, which is estimated at $650,000. It is impossible that assets will fall short of the amount of the defalcation. He has been a very extensive real estate operator, and built up the eastern portions of the city, being known as East Buffalo. He was prominently named as the Republican candidate for Mayor last term.

BUFFALO, December 30.—Further developments in the case of Joseph Bork, the absconding Treasurer, shows his defalcation to floot up between $300,000 and $400,000. It is now certain that he has fled to Canada. He has confessed to several here that a system of defalcation has been carried on during his two terms of office as City Treasurer, using cash and bills of individual checks on Lyon, Burk & Co., bankers. The city will not suffer, as his bondsmen are considered ample security for any deficiency.

The Buffalo Treasurer.

BUFFALO, January 1.—The amount of the Bork defalcation, so far as can be gleaned from the present state of his Treasurer's book, is about $350,000. Bork was at Clinton, Oneida last night, which is just across the border. His property has been attached by the Sheriff and the banking house of Lyon, Bork & Co. closed.

Leavenworth Postmaster Vindicated.

LEAVENWORTH, Kan., January 1.—Col. Huntington, Special Agent of the Postoffice Department, has been here two days past investigating the charges against D. R. Anthony, Postmaster. The investigation was public, and after the evidence was taken, Jas. F. Legate, who preferred the charges, admitted that they were not sustained and withdrew them.

Extensive Manufacture of Counterfeit Coin in Columbus Penitentiary.

COLUMBUS, January 1.—For some time counterfeit five cent pieces, or nickles, have become very common here, and until to-day the public knew nothing as to where they came from. To-day a *Sunday News* reporter, after patient investigation, has learned the particulars of what has developed into a first-class sensation. These bogus coins have been traced to a young son of Col. G. S. Innis, Warden of the Penitentiary. Col. Innis, interrogated, the child that he had been furnished the coin by certain prisoners to purchase tobacco for them. This led to an investigation, and it turns out that the making of this "queer" has been going on in the penitentiary, under the very eyes of the guards, without discovery. The moulds for the coin were made by prisoners, and the metal used was amalgam, used in plating harness in the harness shops. Finding the game was discovered one of the moulds was smashed, and a search turned up about one hundred pounds of the amalgam stowed away for future use. The counterfeit coin is a good imitation of the genuine, the main difference being in the upper part of the shield, which is barred in the genuine and smooth in the spurious. The base coins are all dated 1870, and it is impossible to tell how much has been put in circulation.

The Bork Defalcation.

BUFFALO, January 3.—Treasurer Bork has not returned, as expected, but will probably return this afternoon. He claims that his partner, James S. Lyon, is as culpable as himself in the transactions made.

STEUBENVILLE.

Explosion at Ashland Woolen Mills—The Engineer Killed.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

STEUBENVILLE, O., January 2, 1876.

A boiler at the Ashland Woolen Mills, owned by Wallace Bros., exploded about four o'clock this evening with terrific force, completely destroying the engine house and partially destroying the main factory building. William Sutherland; who has been employed as engineer at the establishment for thirty years, was instantly killed. The loss on the buildings will reach eight thousand dollars. Had the explosion occurred a few minutes later, the loss of life would have been very great.

WHEELING.

Child Killed by a Street Car—Man Found Drowned.

WHEELING, January 2.—About seven o'clock this evening, Mary Nicholson, aged thirteen, while crossing the street in front of her father's residence, in the Sixth ward, was run over by a street car and instantly killed.

The body of Robert Lauchlin, aged fifty-one, was found in the creek in the eastern part of the city this morning. A coroner's jury rendered a verdict of accidental drowning.

Battle between Indians and Mexicans.

SAN FRANCISCO, January 2.—A dispatch from San Diego says Colonel Minz, with Sanora State troops, attacked the main body of the Yaqua Indians at Pittshalla, December 3d, and routed them with the loss of about 200 killed and wounded. The Mexican loss was twenty wounded.

1776. 1876.

Welcome to the Centennial Year.

Midnight Celebration---Illuminations, Fireworks, Music, Processions, Speeches, Ringing of Bells, Firing of Cannon and Other Patriotic Demonstrations.

MONONGAHELA CITY.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

MONONGAHELA CITY, PA., January 1, 1876.

The New Year was gloriously welcomed to-night. The town was brilliantly illuminated during the evening, and a fine procession, consisting of military, the Grand Army of the Republic and citizens, paraded the streets and made a fine display. At midnight a grand mass meeting was held in the Methodist Church, at which vocal music was rendered and patriotic speeches were made by Hon. George V. Lawrence and Rev. Messrs. Campbell and Boyle. After the meeting adjourned there was a splendid exhibition of fireworks. Tar barrels were lighted on every hand, and the town was literally in a blaze of jubilation. We have made a good start on the Centennial year.

PHILADELPHIA.

PHILADELPHIA, January 1.—At this time, midnight, the greatest enthusiasm prevails throughout the city, the vicinity of the State House, especially, being the scene of intense excitement. Chestnut street is thronged by a surging crowd of cheering people. The air is full of the clanging of bells and the firing of cannon, and the sky is lit by fireworks. As the bell noted the hour of twelve a flag, designed after the original pattern, was raised by the Mayor, amid a tremendous acclamation, the firing of a salute following the raising of the flag. Public and private buildings were decorated with flags and illuminated.

The watch and night services in the depot church were attended last night by an immense audience, every foot of space being occupied. Mr. Sankey sang several of his popular hymns, and Mr. Moody preached an interesting sermon. When the first service was over but few withdrew. As the hour of twelve arrived a prayer meeting was held.

PHILADELPHIA, January 1.—At an early hour this morning the untired revellers of the night previous and the public in general were again on the streets, still full of enthusiasm evoked by the greatest event of this generation. At Independence Hall the throng was so great that the Chief of Police found it necessary to detail men to preserve lines of egress and ingress. Carpenter Hall, in which the First Congress of the new nation met, was also a shrine at which patriotic devotions were paid by an innumerable multitude. Mummers of every description were parading the streets, including the "New Year's Shooters" and other societies, in Indian and fantastic costumes, accompanied by some of our first class bands of music.

Girard College celebrated the event in good style, and all the public institutions marked the eventful day by various holiday observances.

The Caledonian Club opened their new club-rooms and had a good time generally.

The illuminations of the previous night were repeated. Places of entertainment were well filled and the first day of the Centennial year closed with no abatement of the fervor which marked its inception. During the evening, in addition to fireworks received the following dispatch:

"Oshkosh sends greetings to Philadelphia. Centennial welcome. National salute fired. Red and blue lights burning in different parts of the city, and bells ringing. We still live.

[Signed] "JOHN HANCOCK."

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, January 1.—The Centennial year was inaugurated at midnight by the ringing of bells, a display of fireworks, the screaming of steamboat and locomotive whistles and the firing of cannon. There were great crowds in the streets and Broadway was a mass of people as at midday. The bells of the Fire Department sounded the numbers 1776 and 1876, and Trinity church chime played many patriotic airs. Dispatches from all parts of the country note similar scenes of enthusiasm.

NEW YORK, December 1.—Friday night and Saturday morning all the bells throughout the city rang together, but steam power, as usual, came in ahead. Every craft with a steam whistle on the North and East rivers opened its throttle at the same time, as if by universal agreement, and for ten or fifteen minutes the sound was as if the noon whistles of all the factories on the continent were blowing "12 o'clock." And the steamboat whistles were not alone. All the engine drivers on the New Jersey and Pennsylvania railroads who use the long Jersey City ferry night banked their fires and kept up steam until 12 o'clock, when the cords were pulled in scores of caboosses, and a din arose which must have made Bergen Hill vibrate to its very base. After this terrific signal of "down brakes" for the engineers, there was a calm which lasted till near daybreak. Then the popping of pistols and torpedoes began, and continued with more or less vehemence until late in the forenoon.

The morning was dark and foggy, but at nine o'clock the sun's face could be distinctly seen through the mist, and the sky was about to clear. By ten o'clock the air was warm and balmy, and the slimy streets were drying fast. The New Year's callers turned out in great numbers with the prospect of completing the whole round without emitting a single name on their lists. The city wore a very lively aspect for a second holiday of the day, although at three o'clock in the afternoon the fog had come again. Navigation then became dangerous, and those callers who went to Brooklyn or Jersey City in their rounds wished themselves safely back again.

Excepting the few who shut themselves up behind closed and bolted doors, and left a basket to receive the cards of callers, the day was a thorough holiday to all. There were fewer scenes of drunkenness on the streets than have been witnessed for many a New Year's day. Scores of families, and probably hundreds if not thousands who had been accustomed to take various kinds of strong liquors among the refreshments prepared for their friends, this year left them out of the bill altogether, furnishing only wines and coffee. The good effect of this was very apparent in the diminished number of young men who found difficulty in entering coach doors or maintaining the perpendicular while on the sidewalk.

WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, January 1.—The Methodist churches of this city held meetings last night, watching the old year out and the new one in. Just before twelve o'clock all the fire alarm bells were sounded and struck 1776, and exactly at midnight struck 1876. The engines, with full head of steam, were run into the streets, and their whistles blown at midnight. The War Department furnished the necessary ammunition and loaned a cannon to the artillerists, and at midnight a national salute of thirty-seven guns to be fired. The Metropolitan church chimes rang at the advent of the New Year.

THE DAY IN WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, January 1.—The usual New Year reception was held at the Executive Mansion to-day, beginning at eleven o'clock, at which time the President received the Cabinet and Foreign Ministers, and afterward the judges of the Supreme Court, Senators and Representatives, officers of the army and navy, chiefs of the bureaus, associated soldiers of the war of 1812, the Mexican war veterans, members of the Oldest Inhabitants' Association, a delegation of the Grand Army of the Republic and others. The attendance was large. The Marine Band furnished the music. The officers of the Army and Navy and Marine corps were out in strong array, and presented a remarkable fine appearance. The reception of citizens generally began at twelve M.

The principal point of attraction at the Executive Mansion was the Red Room, which has been altered during the recess. Gilt chairs, upholstered in Turkish embroidery, in Japanese and Persian patterns, are scattered through this handsome apartment. Bronze satin curtains, bordered with Mateisse damask, edged with maroon velvet, draped the windows. Flowers were placed in the different rooms.

The presentations, as usual, took place in the Blue Room. The Cabinet Ministers entered first, and after exchanging the customary compliments with the President and Mrs. Grant, took their position in different parts of the room. At 11 o'clock the Diplomatic Corps was, as usual, presented to the President by the Secretary of State. There were but few diplomats absent. Of those seen, of the ladies and gentlemen of the corps, may be named; Sir Edward and Lady Thornton, Captain and Mrs. Gore Jones, the secretaries and attaches of the British Legation, Mr. and Mrs. Mariscal, Mr. De Cuellar and Mr. Romero, of the Mexican Legation; Baron Von Schoer, of Germany; Mr. and Mme. Borges, of Brazil; Mr. and Mme. Dardon, of Guatemala; Mr. Preston, of Hayti; Mr. Delfosse, of Belgium; Aristarch Bey, Baltazzi Effendi and Mme. Baltazzi, of Turkey; the French Minister, M. Bartholdi; Senor and Senora Mantilir and Mr. Polo de Bernabe, of Spain; Baron and Baroness de Stoeckl, of Russia; and the Japanese Minister and his wife, and the Secretary of the Legation; the Chilian Minister; Count and Countess Hayos, of Austria; the Swiss Minister and Mme. Chiebkine; Baron Albert Blanc and Count Litta, of Italy; the Danish Minister and Mr. A. Grip, Charge d'Affaires of Sweden and Norway. Except the representatives of the republics, all the Ministers and members of the various legations were in court dress. The most magnificent uniforms were worn by the Russian, the Danish, the Italian, the Brazilian, the Japanese, the German and French Ministers. The members of the Turkish Legation wore the red fez on their heads. Baron Blanc, the Italian Minister, seems to have the greatest number of honorary decorations. The ladies of the Diplomatic Corps were very richly attired, though many of them wore toilets, which were very simple in appearance.

Mrs. Grant was assisted by Mrs. Sharp, Mrs. Frederick D. Grant, Mrs. Louis Dent, Mrs. Fish, Mrs. Italian Minister, Mrs. Bristow, Mrs. Robeson, Mrs. Jewell, Mrs. Pierrepont, Mrs. Chandler, Mrs. Benjamin, Miss Fish, Miss Lamson, Miss Cadwalader, the Misses Stout, and other ladies. At 11:30 A. M., the judges of the Supreme Court were received. They were led by the Chief Justice and Mrs. Waite. Then followed Justices Clifford, Swayne, Miller, Field, Strong, Bradley and Hunt. Then came members of Congress, including Senatoas Ferry, Conkling, Morton, Frelinghuysen, Howe, Sherman, Conover, Morrill, of Vermont; Cragin, Representatives Chittenden, Hamilton, Hale, Hazleton, Hubbell, McHil, Ainsworth, Tarbox, ex-Congressman Platt and many others. The children remained their exercises. Meanwhile an alarm of fire in the basement reached the congregation worshipping above, and with one accord the people rushed for the narrow doors which open into the porch. Those were choked up in an instant, as were also the narrow stairways leading from the galleries. Many persons in the galleries leaped from windows to the ground. Many women fainted, and it was not until the greater portion of the congregation had escaped into the street that the cause of the panic was ascertained and quiet restored. There was no loss of life, but there were several casualties.

LOUISVILLE.

LOUISVILLE, January 1.—The most beautiful night of the season has ushered in the new year. At 12 o'clock the fire bells rang out "1-8-7-6," and 100 guns were fired. The City Building was illuminated, and there was a display of fire works from the new *Courier-Journal* building.

MADISON, INDIANA.

MADISON, IND., January 1.—The Centennial year was ushered in by the citizens of Madison with bonfires, fireworks, the ringing of all the bells in the city and with a torch-light procession one mile in length.

CLEVELAND.

CLEVELAND, January 1.—The Centennial year was inaugurated in this city to-night in a gallant style. City Hall and the public buildings, as well as many private residences and business houses, were brilliantly illuminated. Huge bonfires twenty barrels of petroleum are burning on the public square. At midnight a salute of one hundred guns was fired, and immediately nearly all the bells in the city commenced ringing and chiming. Bands of music and military paraded the streets, which in the neighborhood of the public square were densely thronged with enthusiastic citizens.

CLEVELAND, January 1.—The Independence Centennial year was greeted gallantly in this city to-night. The City Hall was handsomely illuminated, as well as many private residences and business houses, were. illuminated, and huge bonfires fed by barrels of petroleum burned in the public square. At midnight a salute of one hundred guns were fired, at which signal nearly all of the bells in the city were rung and the steam whistles blown. Bands of music and military paraded the crowded streets.

INDIANAPOLIS—SPEECH BY GOVERNOR HENDRICKS.

INDIANAPOLIS, January 1.—The Centennial year was ushered in at twelve o'clock midnight by the noisiest demonstration it was possible to make. At a given signal one hundred strokes were sounded from the Fire Department bells, followed by a pean of "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow"—from the chimes of Christ church. This was followed by the firing of a salute of one hundred guns, the screeching of steam whistles, the shooting of pistols and fire-crackers, and other noisy demonstrations of joy.

At ten o'clock a meeting was held at the Academy of Music, at which Mayor Caven presided. The prayer at midnight caused a salute of thirty-seven guns to be fired. The Metropolitan church chimes rang at the advent of the New Year.

THE DAY IN WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, January 1.—The usual New Year reception was held at the Executive Mansion to-day, beginning at eleven o'clock, at which time the President received the Cabinet and Foreign Ministers, and afterward the judges of the Supreme Court, Senators and Representatives, officers of the army and navy, chiefs of the bureaus, associated soldiers of the war of 1812, the Mexican war veterans, members of the Oldest Inhabitants' Association, a delegation of the Grand Army of the Republic and others. The attendance was large. The Marine Band furnished the music. The officers of the Army and Navy and Marine corps were out in strong array, and presented a remarkable fine appearance. The reception of citizens generally began at twelve M.

The principal point of attraction at the Executive Mansion was the Red Room, which has been altered during the recess. Gilt chairs, upholstered in Turkish embroidery, in Japanese and Persian patterns, are scattered through this handsome apartment. Bronze satin curtains, bordered with Mateisse damask, edged with maroon velvet, draped the windows. Flowers were placed in the different rooms.

The presentations, as usually, took place in the Blue Room. The Cabinet Ministers entered first, and after exchanging the customary compliments with the President and Mrs. Grant, took their position in different parts of the room. At 11 o'clock the Diplomatic Corps was, as usual, presented to the President by the Secretary of State. There were but few diplomats absent. Of those seen, of the ladies and gentlemen of the corps, may be named; Sir Edward and Lady Thornton, Captain and Mrs. Gore Jones, the secretaries and attaches of the British Legation, Mr. and Mrs. Mariscal, Mr. De Cuellar and Mr. Romero, of the Mexican Legation; Baron Von Schoer, of Germany; Mr. and Mme. Borges, of Brazil; Mr. and Mme. Dardon, of Guatemala; Mr. Preston, of Hayti; Mr. Delfosse, of Belgium; Aristarch Bey, Baltazzi Effendi and Mme. Baltazzi, of Turkey; the French Minister, M. Bartholdi; Senor and Senora Mantilir and Mr. Polo de Bervabe, of Spain; Baron and Baroness de Stoeckl, of Portugal; the Japanese Minister and his wife, and the Secretary of the Legation; the Chilian Minister; Count and Countess Hayos, of Austria; the Swiss Minister and Mme. Chiebkine; Baron Albert Blanc and Count Litta, of Italy; the Danish Minister and Mr. A. Grip, Charge d'Affaires of Sweden and Norway. Except the representatives of the republics, all the Ministers and members of the various legations were in court dress. The most magnificent uniforms were worn by the Russian, the Danish, the Italian, the Brazilian, the Japanese, the German and French Ministers.

THE PUBLIC DEBT.

Official Statement for December.

INCREASE FOR MONTH $1,915 062.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 3.—The following is an abstract of the public debt statement for December:

Six per cent. bonds	$ 107,466,400
Five per cent. bonds	670,384,750
Total coin bonds	$1,688,000,150
Lawful money debt	14,000,000
Matured debt	22,712,540
Legal tenders	$ 371,896,362
Certificates of deposit	35,175,000
Fractional currency	44,147,072
Coin certificates	31,198,300
Total without interest	482,417,234
Total debt	$2,207,129,925
Total interest	38,919,062
Total debt and interest	$2,245,948,987
Cash in Treasury, coin	$ 78,821,448
Cash in Treasury, currency	11,117,344
Special deposits held for redemption of certificates of deposits	35,175,000
Total in Treasury	126,116,792
Debt less cash in Treasury	$2,119,832,195
Increase of debt during December	1,915,062
Decrease of debt since June 30, 1875	8,856,531

Bonds issued to Pacific Railway Companies, interest payable in lawful money, principal outstanding

	$ 64,623,512
Interest accrued and not yet paid	1,938,705
Interest paid by United States	22,202,807
Interest repaid by transportation of mails, etc.	6,668,927
Balance of interest paid by United States	21,533,880

FORTY-FOURTH PENNSYLVANIA REGIMENT.

Annual Reunion at Pottsville.

POTTSVILLE, PA., January 1.—The Association of the Forty-eighth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers held its annual reunion here to-day, and with more than usual eclat. This is the regiment that made itself famous during the war by digging and exploding the celebrated mine in front of Petersburg, following up a resolute and several hundred men. Governor Hartranft, of this State, and General A. E. Burnside, the regiment's corps commander, were invited guests at the grand reunion, and had accepted the invitation; but yesterday both telegraphed their inability to come. Notwithstanding this disappointment, which was severely felt in connection with the arrangements for the public exercises, the reunion was conducted with much enthusiasm on the part of both the association and the citizens, a crowded reception was given the veterans by the citizens this afternoon, and a banquet this evening. Both were participated in by the leading merchants, members of the bar and other public men.

BOSTON.

Alarm of Fire in a Catholic Church.

BOSTON, January 3.—While about a thousand children were attending Sunday school in the basement of St. Mary's Catholic church, yesterday, the draperies of the statue of the Virgin Mary took fire. Some of the children raised the cry of fire and a panic seizing them they rushed for the door to escape. The teachers promptly closed the doors and, burning drapery having been torn from the statue, the fire was extinguished before the children resumed their exercises. Meanwhile an alarm of fire in the basement reached the congregation worshipping above, and with one accord the people rushed for the narrow doors which open into the porch. Those were choked up in an instant, as were also the narrow stairways leading from the galleries. Many persons in the galleries leaped from windows to the ground. Many women fainted, and it was not until the greater portion of the congregation had escaped into the street that the cause of the panic was ascertained and quiet restored. There was no loss of life, but there were several casualties.

CHICAGO WHISKY TRIAL.

CHICAGO, December 31.—Mr. A. C. Hesing, leader of the opposition party, candidate for County Treasurer at the last election and manager of the *Staats Zeitung*, was waited upon this evening by a deputy of the U. S. Marshall and served with a subpœna to appear before U. S. Commissioner Philip Hoyne on a charge of conspiracy to defraud the revenue of the United States in connection with the whisky ring. The Commissioner fixed his bail at $5,000, which he furnished. Hermann Hinster, editor of the *Staats Zeitung*, and Washington Hesing, son of the ex-mayor, were also bailed in like amount. After the execution of the bond to the satisfaction of Assistant District Attorney Burke, Mr. Hesing was liberated, to appear for trial before the United States Court when named.

Ex-Police Superintendent Jacob Rehm was also arrested and gave bonds in the same amounts.

E. H. Miller, the retiring County Treasurer, and Andrew Boyd, ex-Sheriff of Cook county, were both arrested and gave bonds in the sum of $2,000 each. The general allegation is conspiracy against the revenue and violation of the same. The specific allegations have not been made known.

GERMAN EXPLAINS.

CHICAGO, December 31.—The *Times* to-morrow will publish a letter from Chas. H. Ham relative to the article on the whisky frauds published in the *Inter-Ocean* recently. Mr. Hamays: "Through a telegram from Washington and otherwise the *Times* attributed the authorship of the local article on the whisky frauds, which appeared in the *Inter-Ocean* of last Saturday, to me. I did not write it; I did not inspire nor instigate it; I never saw it, or any portion of it, until I read it in the *Inter-Ocean* of Saturday morning. I have no information as to the sources whence the facts and statements therein contained were derived. I do not own or hold one dollar of the stock of the paper, nor have I any pecuniary interest whatever in it. I am not editor of the *Inter-Ocean*, I have no control over its columns, and I may add that I never want to accept the responsibility of writing it does not legitimately belong to me. I am led to make this explanation because it has been asserted in the press of the country that the editor-in-chief and manager of the *Inter-Ocean*, on the staff of which paper I am employed as an editorial writer, have disavowed the article in question. This fact, taken in conjunction with the other fact that the article has been and is universally attributed to me, leads logically to the conclusion that I procured its publication mysteriously." Referring to articles in several Eastern papers, which attempt to connect, in some way, the visit of Secretary Bristow's course with the removal of Ham from the office of Appraiser of Merchandise of this port, Mr. Ham declares that the articles called attacks were inspired by no such reasons, and began long before the removal took place.

ILLINOIS DISTILLERY SEIZED.

CHICAGO, December 31.—Revenue Agent Brown and Deputy Collector Springer, acting under orders of Revenue Supervisor Matthews, to-day seized the distillery of the Illinois Distilling Company, formerly known as the Northwestern Distilling Company, largest house of the kind now running. Its full capacity is 2,500 bushels a day. It is owned by Leonard Ayer, lawyer, James Hutchinson and John Robinson. There were found 2,000 barrels of liquor at the time of the seizure, and a hasty inventory showed the worth of the distillery to be about $120,000.

Ohio Legislature.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, January 3.—The Sixty-second General Assembly assembled at ten o'clock this forenoon. Charles H. Grosvenor, of Athens, was elected Speaker of the House; William Leonard, of Cleveland, Chief Clerk, and William Brown, of Lawrence, Sergeant-at-Arms and subordinates in accordance with the decision of the Republican caucus of Saturday night.

In the Senate J. C. Donaldson was elected Chief Clerk; E. L. Jones, of Toledo, Chief Sergeant-at-Arms. The morning session was occupied with business pertaining to organization.

In the Senate to-day a bill was introduced to repeal the now well-known Geghan bill. In the House bills were introduced for the same purpose, and one to provide for taxation of church property.

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MESSAGE

OF

JOHN F. HARTRANFT

TO THE

General Assembly of Pennsylvania.

January 4, 1876.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives.

We have assembled to dedicate ourselves anew to the performance of the duties of the responsible trusts confided to our care. We cannot be unmindful of the magnitude of these trusts and the wisdom and courage necessary to administer them with fidelity and justice, and that we may not be wanting in our conception of, or halt in our efforts to enforce such right, it is reverently asked for the Divine assistance, that our conciences may be enlightened and our hearts strengthened for the task.

FINANCES.

The condition of the finances of the State, as exhibited in the subjoining statements, demonstrates clearly the ability of our people to pay all their indebtedness as it accrues, and is an interesting commentary upon the simplicity and efficiency of our tax system, but likewise as plainly shows the necessity for some modification of existing laws for the distribution of the revenues, if the difficulties that beset legislation at the last session are to be avoided.

Debt Redeemed.

During fiscal year ending November 30, 1875:

Five per cent. loan	$ 98,112 43
Six per cent. loan	1,241,300 00
Relief notes	12 00
Interest certificate	10 48
Total	$ 1,339,497 63

Receipts.

During fiscal year ending November 30, 1875:

Balance in Treasury November 30, 1874	$ 1,064,551 65
Receipts	6,480,099 02
Total	$ 7,544,650 67

Disbursements.

Ordinary expenses	$ 3,866,769 29
Loans redeemed	1,339,497 63
Interest on loans	1,389,176 48
	6,541,443 40
Balance in Treasury November 30, 1875	$ 993,207 27

Funded Debt.

Six per cent. loan	$18,153,380 00
Five per cent. loan	4,869,241 58
Four and a half per cent. loan	87,000 00
	$23,109,621 58

Unfunded Debt.

Relief notes in circulation	$86,184 00
Interest certificates outstanding	13,858 54
Interest certificates unclaimed	4,448 38
Domestic creditors' certificates	25 00
Chambersburg certificates outstanding	9,020 90
Chambersburg certificates unclaimed	199 34
	123,516 16
Total public debt	$23,233,137 74

Sinking Fund Assets.

Bonds of Pennsylvania and Allegheny Valley Railroad Company, $5,200,000, represented by an indebtedness January 1, 1876, as per schedule on file in State Treasurer	$5,132,544 36
Bonds of Allegheny Valley Railroad Company	3,400,000 00
Cash in sinking fund November 30, 1875	$8,532,544 36 934,028 49
	9,466,572 85
Indebtedness unprovided for	$13,766,564 89

The appropriations made for the fiscal year ending December 31, 1875, exceeded the receipts of the general revenue fund five hundred and fifty-one thousand eight hundred and twenty-one dollars and twenty-two cents, and with like appropriations and receipts the deficit for the next two years would be $1,103,643, estimated, however, that the revenue of this year will be five hundred thousand dollars in excess of what it will realize, and that this one item would make the deficiency at the end of the current fiscal year about five millions of dollars, or one million less, unless the appropriations can be reduced. The appropriations are already made for that part of the fiscal year embraced between December 1, 1875, and June 1, 1876. Moreover, the principal appropriations, such as for schools and the ordinary expenses of the government, are fixed by the Constitution or by law, except those for the judiciary and those which will demand unusually large amounts at the session by reason of their failure to receive attention at this time. It is manifest, therefore, that the appropriations cannot be materially reduced, and the deficiency must be provided for either by the imposition of new taxes, or the diversion into the general fund of some of the revenues now directed into the sinking fund. The former new taxes at a time when the business and industrial interests are prostrated would be, we said, a great hardship, and would justly meet with public condemnation. The necessity, therefore, of the latter course is apparent, and obviously a duty that is urgent and demands your immediate attention.

By the provisions of the act of amendment, the sinking fund was created for the purpose of gradually reducing the debt, and by the time when it exceeded forty millions of dollars. An annual reduction of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars was required, and when the debt of the entire debt were its only requirements, and they have been faithfully fulfilled by the sinking fund Commissioners since the creation of the fund in 1857. It will also be observed by the following statement that the sanguine hopes of the framers of the constitutional amendment have been more than realized, during the last decade, in the annual reduction of the debt averaging nearly a million and a half of dollars.

Public debt December 1, 1864	$39,379,062 91
Public debt December 1, 1875	23,233,137 74
	16,145,925 17

The appended statement will show the distance of the estimated receipts of the sinking fund, at the expiration of the fiscal year named the requirements of the Constitution will have been met, as follows:

Tax on corporation stocks	$2,100,000 00
Commutation of tonnage tax	300,000 00
Allegheny Valley Railroad bond	100,000 00
Interest on Allegheny Valley Railroad bonds	170,000 00
	$2,870,000 00
Constitutional requirement of annual reduction of public debt	$ 250,000 00
Interest on public debt	1,300,000 00
	1,550,000 00
Surplus	$1,280,000 00

It will thus be seen with the present distribution of the revenues that there will exist each year in the sinking fund, after the payments which the Constitution requires, a surplus revenue and a quarter of dollars, and when it is remembered that the amount of interest to be paid will annually decrease, and the receipts be greater, owing to the natural accretion of the taxes, the amount of this balance will be augmented from year to year. If this surplus is annually applied to the extinguishment of the principal of the debt, which, at the end of ten years the entire indebtedness of the State will be redeemed. However desirable the consummation may be and gratifying it certainly would be to the Executive, under whose administration it occurs, to announce the payment, yet the diminution of the taxes in 1875, to the amount of one million of dollars, and the six hundred thousand dollars of increased expenses made necessary by the new Constitution in behalf of common schools, the judiciary and Legislature, and the claims of the sinking public charities, forbid this large reduction as the present financial embarrassment. From this calculation it appears that by taking one-third of the corporation tax, which the Legislature is assigned to the sinking fund, and applying this one-third to the uses of the general fund, the entire indebtedness can still be liquidated in fifteen years. Without additional taxation, a fund may be thus created, that with the other revenues of the general fund, with the present management, positively be sufficient to meet all the necessary and proper expenses of the government, and it recommend that this change be made.

At the period of the last fiscal year there remained in the sinking fund the sum of nine hundred and thirty-four thousand and twenty-eight dollars and forty-nine cents. There can be no further redemption of public debt until August, 1877, as all State loans redeemable prior to that time have been paid, and in the meantime the sinking fund, in addition to the will continue to accumulate at large balance, which there is no authority to invest. I therefore recommend the enactment of a law authorizing the Sinking Fund Commissioners to invest the surplus funds in the bonds of the State or the United States as they deem most advantageous, which, in accordance with the provisions of the new Constitution, may be issued in denominations that can be made, and that these investments be directed to be made monthly.

EDUCATION.

The prosperous condition of our public schools affords abundant occasion for just pride. The exhibit made in the report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction is a gratifying illustration of the liberality and public spirit of our citizens, and an earnest pledge of the expectation that no effort for any great or beneficent object enlists their sympathy and support. Thirty years ago the Commonwealth had one thousand seven hundred and forty-three graded schools within her limits, to-day there are thirteen thousand one hundred and twenty-five. During the last decade the value of her school property has appreciated from five hundred and sixty-four thousand eighty-eight dollars and eight cents to two millions one hundred and forty-one thousand and four hundred and fifteen dollars and eighty-three cents. In 1865 the State expended upon her three public schools the sum of three hundred and thirteen thousand two hundred and thirty-eight dollars and sixty-five cents. In 1875 the outlay for the same purpose was nine millions three hundred and sixty-three thousand nine hundred and seventy-one dollars and seventeen cents. Thirteen thousand eight hundred and sixty-three teachers attended during the past year, the Teachers' Institutes held throughout the Commonwealth, in 1865 there were only two thousand two hundred and sixty-five in attendance upon their sessions. These figures are eloquent in their appeal to our citizens and their ardent desire to facilitate the attainment and promote the progress of education. It is interesting to observe, likewise, that those employed in the instruction of our youth appreciate the liberality of our people and are zealously striving to make our school system so comprehensive and thorough that there will be a full return for the money the expenditure incurred. It is an accepted maxim that the education of the youth is the most important subject that can engage the attention of a community. There is no capital more productive, more solid or safer as the basis for the welfare of a State than the inculcation of sound principles and habits of industry among its citizens. The wealth and the true saying that intences and vice are great burdens to society and that virtue and industry contribute to its welfare and dignity. Our title to the respect and gratitude of posterity will therefore largely depend upon the efforts in behalf of right education, and it is for us to gravely consider whether we perform our whole duty in affording each year for the necessary expenses of the school term that must make us content, or to extend its usefulness and benefits to new fields of instruction. Is it not a reproach upon our enlightened system that the support and education of neglected children in our midst may if not also be said upon our humanity to expend ten millions of dollars annually in public education and find thousand of children who will not or cannot avail themselves of its privileges. No people have contributed more to the advancement of human comfort and the abridgement of labor by the application of mechanical principles, or are more prolific of invention of a useful kind than Americans, and yet no countries give less attention to the development of the genius and the study of these principles in their systems of public instruction than our own. With such capabilities and the opportunities for the application of mechanical principles, and the unsurpassed skill in wielding and manufacture of our great resources, does it seem the part of prudence and economy to persist in all the vast expenditure to be made without embracing in the plan some methods of instruction that will at least fit a small number of children for some special trade or occupation?

My opinions upon the subjects of compulsory and industrial education are well known and it is unnecessary for me again to advance them. They have discovered themselves to me after mature and conscientious thought and investigation, and are founded, I believe, upon principles of sound policy, and as the interests and necessity are enforcing them-selves upon public attention, I respectively ask if the nature and importance of your trust as legislators do not demand of you some consideration in this regard?

NORMAL SCHOOLS.

The methods of teaching have been vastly improved in the last few years, and it is conceded many of these methods are the out growth of the normal schools of the State, the teachers from which have contributed very materially to the character and efficiency of the public schools. Some persons, as a natural fitness for teaching, but in most instances the qualifications therefor are acquired, and in no way can they be so readily obtained as by the special preparation attechnical instruction received at the normal school, where the principles and practices of teaching are inculcated by experienced preceptors. The greater the number of these schools, the higher we raise their standard and the more thorough the instruction imparted within their walls the more widespread will be their influence, and to secure competency and promote the welfare of teachers and pupils alike, I trust the Legislature will extend to the normal schools whatever assistance may be needed to insure their increased efficiency and usefulness.

SOLDIERS' ORPHANS.

The continued favor of the Legislature to the schools wherein the orphans of our soldiers are maintained and taught, is an agreeable proof of the patriotism of our people. What prouder monument could we erect to the Pennsylvanians who fell in battle than to care for and educate their children? There will be little hope for our institutions when we cease to be grateful to those who bled or died in defence of the more sacred principles of liberty, the privilege of self-government. The present system has simply been mocked-taxation, extravagance and abuses were associated with such rapidity as to make the annual interest thereon is now greater than was the total amount of the principal when the system went into service. Several of the States are making extensive preparations for this celebration, and the military feature of the exhibition promises to be creditable to the volunteer system of the country. Several companies from throughout the Commonwealth are perfecting themselves in drill and discipline, with a view to this encampment, and I am satisfied that the appearance and bearing of our soldiers will reflect honor upon our State. At Boston, during the occasion of the Centennial anniversary of the battle of Bunker hill, the portion of the Pennsylvania Guard that went were the recipients of the warmest praise, not only from the vast concourse of people that assembled, but from the trained and experienced military men who reviewed the troops. It is proper, too, that honorable mention should be made of the Reviewing Officers of the troops sent to suppress the riots in the coal regions. No more unwelcome and distasteful duty or responsibility could be assigned to soldiers than was this particular service. In cold and inclement weather, frequently transferred from their comfortable homes to a wild and bleak region, where the opportunities for exercising shelter were few, the passions of the people were excited and inflamed, and life and property in peril, they performed their daily round of duty for several weeks, with a strict observance of the rights of property and the decencies of life, and the respect of the citizens whose turbulence they were sent to suppress, and by their exemplary conduct and bearing won the high encomiums of those who are now incurable, who, could they have received proper treatment, might have been restored to reason and society. But the true beneficence and charity of the State can there be evolved no plan that will take charge of these poor unfortunates, and place them under the supervision of those who are skilled in the treatment of the disease, so as to relieve and rest its progress before its victims have become hopelessly demented? The hospitals at Dixmont and Warren, and the additions to the for the next few years to accommodate all the insane of the western and northwestern portions of the State. Those at Harrisburg and Danville will supply the wants of the same class in the central and northeastern sections, There remain then the large and populous counties of the East, including Philadelphia, which are under the care of the whole population of the Commonwealth, without hospital accommodations for the insane other than those provided by their almshouses and prisons. In the Philadelphia almshouse alone twelve hundred of the inmates are insane, and the crowded wards necessary by the limited accommodations, aggravate instead of relieving the misery. Treatment and cheerfulness are essential to promote the recovery of these patients. is recovery of these patients. is enjoyed by enlightened or scientific treatment under such conditions? No hospitals that the State could construct would afford accommodations for all these helpless creatures. Most of them are incurably insane, and no course or treatment be it ever so humane or skilful, could alleviate their misery. There are, however, many inmates of this almshouse, who, if they had been properly treated in the first stages of their affliction, might have been rescued from the deplorable madness that shuts them out from all hope. Confined to associate with and constantly look upon insanity in every conceivable form, it was not strange that the little intelligence that still flickered in their minds went out in utter darkness, never to be rekindled. It is for this class of the insane that I recommend the erection of county hospitals, and I am satisfied that in the end they will be found economical and instructive. Twenty-five years ago a like spirit of extravagance and mania for public improvements prevailed throughout the State, and the public generally, without a thought or question, were ready to vote away millions of dollars in behalf of canals and other public works, and was the parent of a debt of several millions of dollars, and of the corruptions and evil practices that aroused the people to the extraordinary effort which resulted in the constitutional amendment prohibiting as in crease of the public debt, and providing a sinking fund for the payment of the interest and an annual reduction of the principal. How different and gratifying is the spectacle to-day. With a yearly income scarcely exceeding six millions of dollars, and a State with four millions of inhabitants, the taxes have recently been decreased and annually a large portion of the debt paid off, so that now the indebtedness amounts to but twenty-three millions of dollars. Of the revenues for some years past, two million five hundred thousand dollars have been allotted to the payment of interest and the reduction of the public debt, leaving three millions and a half to be devoted to the payment of the expenses of the government, which include provision for our magnificent system of education, the support of religious charities and to them we are indebted for the principles of constitutional liberty, and a just regard for the rights of property is government so useful in the administration of our municipal affairs.

The cities of England obtained the right of local self-government about the beginning of the thirteenth century, and have grown in population and wealth and kept pace with their independence and freedom from the exactions of the crown. Their municipal powers have likewise increased as their political power was augmented, and we find them graciously favored by the sovereign in the matter of having a representation of their own election. With the progress of the age, and the construction of railways, at a distance from a city to divert trade to its marts and other like projects, new and able avenues were sought that our cities are the prey of jobbers, and the curse and puse of our civilization, and that to this more the result of the system than the fault of the city officials. Honest men cannot be made to understand that the power for evil of those who are dishonest or careless a limit can and should be fixed. The principal source of this enormity is not in the direction to do wrong, but in the license to speculate and plunder. It is the power to do that which is wrong and not those who do it, wherein we must find the evil. Displace those in the present local legislature, and others will take their positions who will soon be given to like practices.

Under this view, that there is a grave difference between the conscience of the individual and the public conscience. A man will hesitate long before he will do wrong himself, before he takes advantage of his neighbor, but the same man will not scruple a moment to aid his approval is asked for a project, which, under the guise of a public improvement, is to despoil the municipality of a portion of its property. Again, it is an admitted fact that every public enterprise costs more than it should, and contractors are as much as a private one, and the cost to administer the several departments in our cities is a striking illustration of this truth.

Is there any good reason why the cost of the municipal service in Philadelphia, for example, should in some instances be four or five times in excess of the amount paid in other cities when compared therewith the increase of population and appreciation of property has been merely nominal?

Does the indifference and inertness with which this subject of the government of cities has been here tofore regarded, forbid the hope that there can be manifested on the part of sensible citizens to devise and enforce measures that will emancipate our cities from the invisible corruptions in the appropriations of expenditures, or will they await until their property is irretrievably mortgaged and their honor and credit so far involved as to call forth a cry of bankruptcy. The immunity from criticism and the security from the effects of corruption in public improvement enjoys, gives encouragement and protection to every invention of fraud and peculation, and the only safeguard and who supinely submit year after year to these exactions, are to a great extent responsible therefor.

The bulk of taxation in our great cities falls upon the industrious classes of the people, the citizens do not feel its burdens, and are unconcerned about the public expenditures or enforce economy and improve them when they minister to their enjoyment, as do parks, or add to the attractiveness of their homes, as do police and schools. The mass of citizens, forgetful of that cardinal principle of our institutions, that taxation and the tax to be paid it, control the elections and send men to the municipal councils like those of ancient times frequently bear none of the public burdens, and are consequently improvident and wasteful. A large and powerful corporation has therefore taxed without representation, for no one man will assume the responsibility of representation is the right for which our fathers waged a seven years' war with England. Can absorbing men believe a representative in the local officers and citizens more vigilant and active, and dissuade them from looking and waiting to the Legislature for relief from any action of an alarm or tumult are questions to which I have given patient and anxious thought, and the following plan will, I trust, afford a practical test of the disposition and ability of a community to rule itself and maintain order within its limits. I recommend the enactment of a law empowering the sheriff, whenever in his opinion the force in his command is inadequate to the court of his county, and upon the written certificate of said sheriff that said riot or disorder is threatening, then the said court to immediately order out sufficient additional military force sufficient to quell the disturbance, and to maintain them under his direction and control until such time as he can rely upon civil services. The force so mustered should be paid by the county in which the service is rendered, and armed by the State. A tumult arising, the sheriff would then have an armed, paid and disciplined force at his command, having order and enforcing the process of the courts, without interfering with the pursuits and their daily vocations and perhaps involving them in injury and loss. This armed body of men would also form the nucleus around which the law-abiding citizens could rally when the emergency required, and would themselves and their officers is every emergency. The proper plan of expense should be borne by that portion of the community which is especially benefited, and the county should be made to pay the expense. Revolutionary riots are held to a strict accountability they will not be likely to incur the great responsibility of asking this assistance of the court, unless the gravity of the situation justifies the demand.

This special home constabulary force might also be applied for and obtained from the courts in localities where the ordinary processes of the State murder and arson are rife and a spirit of lawlessness prevails that does not justify the calling out of the military by the governor.

The Attorney General should also be authorized, by the proper application, to remove any officer or citizen who failed to perform his duty, or party or parties who were engaged in riot or turbulence, and to issue his subpœna and summon witnesses to any other county in the Commonwealth where a fair and impartial trial can be had. The great public interests and public money almost annually incurred in the suppression of these riots, are ample to cover the cost of such a measure. The series can probably be reduced to a few volumes.

SALARIES FOR COUNTY OFFICERS.

By the provisions of section 5 of the 14th article of the new Constitution, "in counties containing over one hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants, all county officers shall be paid by salaries to be fixed by law, and all fees collected in this limits no authority superior to itself, or otherwise, shall be paid into the county treasury." In order to carry into effect this provision of the Constitution, it is necessary that the Legislature should pass a law fixing the salaries of the officers of the counties referred to, and to prevent them making an contract to work they may be elected or appointed to, and to authorize the Supreme Court or the Legislature an act to meet the powers conferred upon them by the State. The control proper salaries of county officers, so as to raise or depress the price or labor of the market, is wrong. Any citizen, therefore, feels that he is wronged by the improper and unlawful exercise of the powers of these courts or officers, has the right to appeal before the Executive, if, upon investigation, it is found to be just, and a legal remedy exists therefor, he will direct the Attorney General to see that this remedy is speedily and surely enforced.

There is no problem of State policy, the solution of which would be fraught with more alarming consequences than the attempt to accurately contend with the combined power of the State, and if the energy of an officer evinces a determination to act promptly and resolutely for the preservation of order, rioters will quickly abandon their unlawful designs. Moreover, local officers are appointed by the governments of municipalities, and with the exception of the Boards of Public Improvements, have no control over the expenditures, or will they await until their property is irretrievably mortgaged and their honor and credit so far involved as to call forth a cry of bankruptcy. The immunity from criticism and from the effects of corruption in public improvement enjoys, gives encouragement and protection to every invention of fraud and peculation, and the only safeguard and who supinely submit year after year to these exactions, are to a great extent responsible therefor.

The built

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, January 5, 1876.

In monetary circles the day has passed in the usual routine and nothing startling has occurred to ruffle the quietude. While the banks are reported by their officers as "easy," their reports would indicate that there is no very great plethora of money. Rates may be quoted at from 7 to 9 per cent. to regular customers, with an upward sliding of the scale for outside loans and for persons whose standing is not assured. We have several letters from both city and outside correspondents, saying that they are unable to borrow money at the rates quoted by us, and that they consider our quotations too low. Our correspondents seem not to understand that to get money they must offer an equivalent. That the low rates spoken of in the papers as ruling in New York and other Eastern money centers, are not only for loans on convertible collaterals, such as United States bonds and undoubted securities of other kinds which can be converted at a moment's notice into money, but the borrower himself must be of such undoubted credit as to render recourse to the collateral improbable. These are call loans. In our own money market the rates quoted are those charged by the banks on the paper of their old and reliable customers. The very fact that a man comes to a bank the first time to borrow is viewed as suspicious, and bank officers are put on inquiry as to why the applicant does not have his wants supplied at the bank where he has been dealing, knowing it to be a fact that almost any man worthy of credit does not leave an regular bank to borrow money.

When real estate located out of town is offered as security for loans the matter is worse, for it is next to impossible to get city lenders to go outside of the corporate or county limits for investments. It is no uncommon thing for persons at a distance to apply to friends here for loans on mortgage, the property being worth double the amount desired, but rarely find any one willing to touch it at all. So that it may safely be put down as suspicious when you see an advertisement offering to loan money on distant securities. There is nothing so sensitive as credit, and capitalists having money to loan are the most timid of business men. While they always insist upon the best possible security, they would not be tempted to loan at all if they supposed they would have to recover their money by sueing on their security. It is, as the rule, only the rich who can borrow at very low rates, though the less favored in worldly means may offer the same security.

—We may state that the officers of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, of New York, have been in the city for two days past in consultation with some of our leading bankers and business men, and have made a very careful inspection of the character of the property that goes to make up the city proper. The result of this inspection is that the most urgent of our borrowers will be disappointed in the conclusion the committee have come to, and that is to confine their loans to improved city property used for dwellings, stores, warehouses, &c., and to reject all suburban property, mills, factories, furnaces, mining properties and the like, and to confines their advances to twenty-five per cent. of the assessed value of the security offered. These loans will be made in New York at seven per cent. per annum. The committee state that their loans will be very cautious and to a limited extent on account of our very *illiberal usury laws*. For years the charge has been made against the Mutual Life Insurance Company that they have been taking from $800,000 to $1,000,000 out of the State and investing it in New York, to the detriment of the interest of the State of Pennsylvania. The company now stand ready to loan in this State a sum equal or greater than that paid them for premiums, as soon as they can make honest seven per cent. loans, the rate they are getting in New York State. Not only is this company ready to thus loan money here, but a score of wealthy New York and New England companies are thus prepared to advance the capital that our industrial interests most need, and are prevented only by the Legislature of Pennsylvania, which still retains the antiquated notion that a usury law keeps down the rate of interest.

We make the statement without fear of contradiction that, leaving out purchase money mortgages, the number of real estate loans placed at 7 per cent. or less in this county can be counted on our finger ends.

The key to the truth of the situation is found in the fact that the savings banks that can by their special charters charge 10 per cent., raise the only objection to the coming of the insurance companies into this community as lenders.

—The following, which we find in a recent Philadelphia dispatch to the Chicago *Tribune*, indicates a cessation of the railway are:

The westward bound freight rates will be increased on the 7th inst. to the following figures: From Philadelphia to Chicago, first class, 68 cents per 100 pounds; second, 63; third, 56; fourth, 44; fifth, 35; sixth, 25; class C, 49; to Cincinnati, 62, 56, 48, 36, 28. The low charges at present, it is said, are intended for only 15 days, the Grand Trunk Railroad to advance their rates from Boston to the West. The action, which has been the cause of feeling, succeeded in its object, and the railways of the Grand Trunk. That company refused to come to any terms except upon a basis of equal profits on all freights to and from the West. After several days of parleying, the meeting of last week was called, and the four railways were present. The result is the account given by a gentleman who took part in the negotiations.

Operations of BANK & STONE, BANKERS AND BROKERS, No. 7 WALL STREET, NEW YORK, January 4, 1876.

The stock market has developed no more animation to-day, and we are very glad to report a better feeling on the street. The advance in prices has been small, as nevertheless it has been decided, and there is a noticeably increased disposition to buy stocks, which if continued for a few days must have a very beneficial effect upon the business at the Stock Exchange.

Among the chief features of the day, Lake Shore has been very prominent, and there has been a very good inquiry for it from new buyers every since the first call.

St. Paul preferred is very well sustained, and indications points to still higher figures for it. In fact many of the oldest dealers on the street have been buying it during the day on the good condition of the road being the basis of such purchases.

The Chicago and Northwestern stocks are in more demand, and for similar reasons.

Pacific Mail has been a leading spot in the market, but we hear that Mr. Sage is again manipulating it, and the public and Pacific Mail has surrendered the bulk of his interest in this stock.

Money remains in good demand.

Yours truly, BANK & STONE.

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day, furnished by the Fifth National Bank, No. 16 Sixth street:

January 5, 1876.	10:30 A. M.	11:30 A. M.	12:30 P. M.	1:30 P. M.	2:30 P. M.
Gold	112½	112½	112⅝	112½	112½
U. S. 1881	119½	119½			119½
5-20's, 1865	116	116			115¾
5-20's, 1867	117¼	117¼			117¼
5-20's, 1867, regis'ed	115¾	115¾			115¾
5-20's, 1867, new	119¼	119¼			119¼
5-20's, 1868	120	120¼			120¼
10-40's, coupons	117¼	117¼			117¼
10-40's, registered	115¾	115¾			115¾
Currency 6's	128	128			128
New 5 per cents	119¼	119¼			119¼
Western Union Tel	74⅞	74¾			74¾
Quicksilver	38	38			38
Pacific Mail	38¾	38¾	38¾	38¾	38¾
Panama					99
Adams Express					95
Wells-Fargo Ex					90
American Express					56
United States Express					50
New York Central	105¾	105¾	105¾	105¾	105¾
Erie	16	16	16	16	16
Michigan Central	90½	90½	90½	90½	90½
Michigan Southern	91	91	91	91	91
Illinois Central					98
Cleve. & Pittsburgh					89½
Chicago & Northw'n	38¾	38¾	38¾	38¾	38¾
Do preferred					65
Rock Island	104¼	104¼	104¼	104¼	104¼
St. Paul, common					36½
Do preferred					61
Northwestern					30½
Fort Wayne					131
Ohio & Mississippi					31½
Union Pacific	73¾	73¾	73¾	73¾	73¾
Harlem	131	131			131
Hannibal & St. Joe	21½				21½
Do preferred					38
C. C. & I. C					93
Del. and Lackawanna	123¾	123	123	123	123
Atlantic & Pac. Tel					18½
S. Carolinas, April					15
S. Carolinas, July					15
Missouri 6's					100½

—The following is the report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to-day:

Stocks.	Bid.	Asked.	Sales.
Pennsylvania Central	25		34½
Reading	34		
United Co.'s of N. J	134½	135	
Oil Creek			11½
Lehigh Valley	62¼	62¾	
Camden & Amboy Co.	47	50½	
P. C. & St. ..... m. b.			80¾

*Ex dividend.

[By Associated Press.]

Gold Closes at 112½.

MONEY.

NEW YORK, January 5.—Money 7@ per cent.; loaned as 7 gold; closed at 4. Prime mercantile paper 7@8 per cent. Customs receipts $462,000. The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $577,000. Clearings $52,000,000. Sterling steady at 484@488.

GOLD.

Gold opened and closed at 112¾ with sales in the interim at 112⅝ and 112⅝. Rates paid for carrying were 6, 5, 3¼ and 3 per cent.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Government bonds firm and in good demand. Railroad bonds strong and higher. There were some large purchases of Union Pacific first's from 109¾ to 10¼, the highest price yet reached. Union Pacific land grants rose to 101 and sinking funds to 91½@95. Chicago and Northwestern consolidated gold bonds were strong at 86 to 86¾. Rock Island sevens at 108¾, and Milwaukee and St. Paul, La Crosse Division, 85¾. Hannibal and St. Joe convertible advanced to 81¾. State securities quiet. The stock market was weak and lower in early dealings, the decline ranging from ¼ to 1 per cent., the latter Michigan Central. Pacific Mail declined to 38¾. During the last hour stocks were strong and higher, the Lake shore statement and dividend having a tendency to strengthen the market. At the close there was a slight reaction in some cases. The greatest advance was in Pacific Mail, which sold from 37¾ to 38¾, closing at the latter figure. Michigan Central advanced from 90 to 90½, with final sales at 90. Lake Shore rose from 69¾ to 70, and afterward fell to 61. Northwestern closed firm at 30¾@30¾, for common and 86-4@86½ for preferred. Panama sold at 127¼ and closed at 128 bid, ex-dividend of 3 per cent. Transactions 92,000 shares, of which 25,000 were Pacific Mail, 4,300 Western Union, 4,000 Erie, 51,000 Lake Shore and 5,000 Michigan Central. The following were the closing quotations:

STOCKS.

W. U. Telegraph	74½	Rock Island	104¾
Pacific Mail	38¾	St. Paul	35¾
Mariposa	9½	Do preferred	67¾
Do preferred	19½	Terre Haute	6
Adams Express	125	Do preferred	25
Wells Fargo Ex	84	Delaware & Lack	117½
American Ex	54½	North Illinois Pref	104½
United States Ex	62	Hannibal & St. Joe.	21½
New York Central	105¾	Toledo & Wabash	7
Erie	16	Do preferred	26
Do preferred	31	Fort Wayne	97¾
Harlem	131	Chicago and Alton	98
Do preferred	135	Do preferred	106
Mich. Central	89½	Ohio & Mississippi	16¾
Panama	128	Atlantic & Pac Tel	18½
Lake Shore	61	Burling'n & Quincy	115¾
Illinois Central	98¾	Union Pac. stock	73½
Clev. & Pitts	89½	Cen. Pac. bonds	105¾
North western	38½	Union Pac. bonds	103¾
Do preferred	64½	Do land grant	101
C. C. & I. C	50½	Do sink. fund bds	94¾
N. J. Central	103¾		

GOVERNMENTS.

U. S. coupons, 1881	120¾	New 5's	116¼
5-20's, 1865	115¾	10-40's registered	117¼
5-20's, 1867	117¾	10-40's coupons	117¾
5-20's, 1867	119¾	Currency 6's	123¼
5-20's, 1868	120¼		

STATE BONDS.

Tennessee, old	70	Virginia, new	38
Tennessee, new	40½	Missouri 6's	100¼
Virginia, old	35¾		

LONDON, January 5, 5 P. M.—The rate of discount in open market for three months' bills remains 3 per cent., the same as the Bank of England rate. Consols for money and for account 93 15-16. United States bonds—5-20's, 1865, 104½; do 1867, 106¾; do 1868, 107¼. Illinois Railroad securities—New York Central 97½ Erie 14½; do preferred 29.

PARIS, January 5.—Rentes 66 francs 30 centimes.

FRANKFORT, January 5.—United States bonds —New 7's, 96½.

NEW ORLEANS, January 5.—Gold 112¾. Sight exchange, Sterling—Bank nominal.

GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, January 5, 1876.

The usual January lull in the ordinary buying and selling transactions of business is not so noticeable as might have been expected. The usual occupation of both wholesale and retail dealers is to that of settlements; but there is at the same time a larger volume of trade than might have been expected from the preliminary symptoms during December. Still of course the aggregate of January sales is rather dull and there are few movements of importance.

The New York *Bulletin* says that late reports from the farming districts of Southern Illinois are evidently made to appear as blue as possible. Yet the statements *per se* indicate a good market for the entire crops, as well as a larger yield than was anticipated early in the season. In consequence of sickness and drought there was but about one-third the average crop planted this year, but the weather has been so propitious as to make the yield per acre fully up to the average. The shipments, particularly of wheat, have been unusually heavy thus far, but there is considerable speculation now on the alleged damaged condition of grain now held by farmers. The crop of corn on uplands was up to the full average, and a like report is given relative to oats. There appears, however, to have been a very great destruction of the crop of castor beans. The entire yield averaged but 24 bushels to the acre. This crop is usually considered a sure one, and is chiefly grown by farmers of limited means, and the failure, together with the unprecedented low price, has created much apprehension among the class in reference. Reports from tobacco growers vary somewhat, but on the whole the crop is said to be a fair one, both as to quality and quantity. A larger area than heretofore was planted, but the exact increase in acreage has not been made public.

The movements in values to-day were not especially numerous, and the failure, together with the unprecedented low price, has created much apprehension among the class in reference. Reports from tobacco growers vary somewhat, but on the whole the crop is said to be a fair one, both as to quality and quantity. A larger area than heretofore was planted, but the exact increase in acreage has not been made public.

The movements in values to-day were not especially numerous. There was a quiet market but in other respects the grain, flour and feed markets were entirely unchanged, though rather dull. In country produce the trade was sluggish, butter, eggs and cheese showing a little ease, while poultry was steady and advanced, selling in some instances at extreme prices. In groceries there was some easiness in sugars, giving a shade of about ½c on former quotations, while coffees and the above not no quotable alteration of importance, prices being steady and the movement extremely moderate.

The receipts of the leading articles of produce during the past two days were:

Flour, bbls	1,350	Chees, lbs	20
Corn, bus	800	Potatoes, bbls	153
Wheat, bus	1,000	Hides, lbs	1,000
Barley, bus	4,050	Rye, bus	850
Oats, bus	4,150		

The following are the receipts of the leading articles during the past two weeks:

Articles.	Last week.	This week	Total
Flour, bbls	6,888	8,023	15,561
Apples, bbls	629	800	1,429
Cheese, lbs	12,000	7,500	19,500
Corn, bus	12,448	7,548	19,996
Wheat, bus	7,220	7,560	14,780
Barley, bus	17,000	12,000	29,166
Rye, bus	1,750	3,666	5,336
Oats, bus	18,150	17,350	37,022
Butter, pkgs	350	420	811
Bacon, pcs	21,565	15,450	37,015
Bacon, lbs	4,000	3,000	7,000
Potatoes, bus	7,140	17,923	25,063
Hay, bales	2,303	1,583	3,870

The quotations given in the following reports are prices realized in wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. On small sales dealers will charge an advance. Prices of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free of elevator.

Grain, Flour and Feed.

GRAIN—The trade continues sluggish and unsatisfactory in nearly all respects. The demand is limited, the receipts are light, and dealers complain that the prices offered will not pay the system of gain from one section to another. Wheat was easy with a light demand for No. 3 red winter at 90½ bid, and a sale of 2 cars red winter at $1 30. The present rates are: Michigan white at $1 36@1 40; Pennsylvania white, $1 35@1 40; No. 1 red $1 26@1 30. The latter for strictly prime quality. No. 2 red winter is worth $1 23@1 28 and grades are dull and neglected at $1 15 @1 22; rejected do $1 00@1 10, as per quality. Corn was quiet and steady with a light demand for feeding. We note sales of 1 car old shelled at 85c; 1 car do at 86c; 1 car new shelled on track at 56c; 1 car on track at 51c; 170 sacks ear on wheat at 50c. We quote new shelled at 50@52c for good yellow; new ear at 48@50c; mixed 50@52c for choice yellow; old shelled in elevator is held at 62@65c. Oats were steady with a moderate demand and good receipts. We note sales of business including 1 car Western white at 43c; 1 car do do, 42½c; 1 car do do, 42c; 1 car do do, 41½c. We quote mixed Pennsylvania and Ohio 39@40c; white do at 42@43c; prime Western white at 40@41c. Barley—No. 2 Canada is held at $1 30@1 35 per bushel; choice spring at 1 20@1 25; common to fair, 1 05@1 15; low grades nominal at 90c@1 00. Rye—Not much doing; held at 80@85c per bushel. Nothing sales were reported at the close. The visible supply of grain, comprising the stocks in granary, at the principal points of accumulation at the end of last week, which is in transit by rail and water routes was as follows in the aforementioned places:

	Wheat, bush.	Corn, bush.	Oats, bush.	Barley, Rye, bush. bush.
New York	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Chicago	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Milwaukee	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Toledo	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Detroit	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
St. Louis	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Boston	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Toronto	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Montreal	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Philadelphia	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Peoria	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Indianapolis	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Kansas City	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Baltimore	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Minneapolis	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
St. Paul	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000

FLOUR—The flour market continues to move quietly with an active demand for prime and choice family brands, while the low grades are dull and neglected. We quote the wholesale prices from store: Superfine, $3 25@3 50; No. 1 white wheat flour $7 75@8 00; No. 1 spring do $7 25@7 50; best wheat flour $7 25@8 00; No. 1 amber do $7 25@7 50; best wheat flour $7 25@8 00; well known brands of family flour $7 00@7 25; Wisconsin is quoted at $6 50@6 75; Minnesota $6 75@7 00; Daisy St. Louis $8 00@8 50; choice patents $8 50@9 00; new red winter wheat flour is quoted at $7 00@7 25; Graham flour $7 00@7 25; self raising flour, in 5 lb packages, $4 25 @ dozen packages; cornmeal is held at $2 50@2 75 per bbl and $1 75 per keg for $5 00@5 25 ₩ bbl. Buckwheat flour 90@3@ ₩ lb.

HAY—The receipts have been limited. There is, however, an ample supply in the market. Sales reported to-day: No. 1 timothy at 19 00; sales of 2 cars No. 1 timothy at $19 00; 2 cars do at $18 00; 1 car No. 2 timothy at $16 00; 1 car do at $15 50. We quote present rates: upland prairie baled per ton $12 00@14 00; timothy $16 00@18 00; mixed timothy $15 00@15 50 per ton; loose from wagon $17 00@22 00, as per quality and condition. Straw rules at $11 50@12 00 per ton for baled.

MILL FEED—The overstocked and depressed condition of the trade continues and prices are nearly nominal. We quote: Bran $9 00@9 50 ₩ cwt; seconds 90@$1 00 ₩ cwt; middlings $1 10@1 20 ₩ cwt; chop feed in round lots $1 40 to 1; chopped feed $1 25@1 30.

Country Produce.

APPLES—The heavy stock held here is working off somewhat, but is still ample for all contingencies, and in the absence of improved demand the market is weak. Prices have undergone no material change. We quote fair to choice eating apples at $3 00@3 50 ₩ barrel; large cooking $2 50@3 00; common to medium grades at $2 00@2 50; russet at $2 00@2 50 ₩ bbl.

APPLE BUTTER—The receipts are on the increase. Holders of prime quality are firm in their views with sales 70@75c ₩ gallon.

BEANS—The stock continues to increase and the market is weak. Prime white navy beans are quoted in small lots at $2 30@2 40; choice [illegible]; mediums are nominally $1 25@1 35.

BEESWAX—The market is quiet with little doing except in a jobbing way; nominally 30@33c ₩ lb.

BUTTER—The market is easy with liberal receipts, but no further quotable decline in values. While some extra choice grades still realize 30c, the quote prime to choice 25@28c; fair to good, mostly 20@24c; common 12@18c ₩ pound. The New York *Bulletin* reviews the market for Western butter as follows: "Western butter has remained about the same. The few dealers who were lucky enough to obtain a high grade of stock could sell at corresponding rates, but nearly all the arrivals have been a little off in quality, and 25c was about the top figure of the market. In a general wholesale way, while some very fair grades had to be sold at 24c, the bulk of the offerings was not plenty, and though scarcely sought after with the former anxiety, could be considered steady at 22@23c. Rolls have been quiet and not very firm, about 20c showing the top figure obtainable on any description."

CHEESE—There is a rather easy market and some dealers are talking largely of reduced prices. The market is hardly quotable at some what lower, although leading houses continue former prices. We quote: Ohio flats 13@13½c ₩ lb for September; New York Goshen 13½@14c; Sweitzer 16@18c; Limberger 15@16c. The *Bulletin* reviews the New York market as follows. "Early in the week some fair sales were made at 10½@12c for September and October factory, and although the high priority of holders were unwilling to negotiate at these figures, it was all that could be obtained, with the demand neither quick or general at that. Indeed the week and year closed on a dull and nominal market, which is supposed to be obtainable for extra fine fall made, but hardly enough business doing to afford an opportunity for decision and the trade in fair from brilliant humor. The market has been very limited and confined to jobbing prices."

CIDER—The market was firm under light receipts; prices are nominal at $5 00@7 00 per bbl, as to quality and size of barrels.

DRIED FRUITS—Bright apples, sliced, 11¼@12c; bright apples, quarters, 10@11c; Peaches, halves, new, 12½@13c; do, old, 9@9½c; Black berries 11c; Huckleberries 15@20c; Raspberries 24c; Cherries, pitted, 20@22c; Cherries, unpitted, 8@9c.

FISH—The market contains an ample supply, and prices are easy and slightly lower. We quote: Strictly fresh 240@250c pickled 220@230c; mackerel is a slow and weak market at unchanged prices. It is worth remarking that the State law closes the market for pack-mat, and it is unlawful to offer such fish after the first of the month, and that it is unlawful to offer such game for sale thereafter. We quote venison at 10c per pound for silver saddles, 18@20c for long saddles, whole deer 10@12c per pound. Rabbits sold at 20@25c per pair; squirrels are not wanted at any prices offered at 50c per dozen. Quail were quoted at $1 75@2 25 per dozen; grouse $4 00@4 50 per dozen; prairie chickens $1 00@4 50 per dozen; pheasants do $5 50@6 00.

HOMINY—In fair supply. We note sales in a regular way at $4 00@4 25 ₩ barrel.

HONEY—New domestic honey steady at 25@28c ₩ lb; California is quoted at 30c ₩ lb.

HORS—In moderate demand for present use. Prices are becoming depressed. Choice 1875's rule at 16@22c ₩ lb, while mediums have no real value. Prices very uncertain.

MINCE MEAT—In ample supply. We quote nominally 10@11c ₩ lb.

NUTS—The supply is liberal and the market easy. Chestnuts are easy at $3 00@3 25 ₩ bushel; peanuts are in fair request at easy prices; prime white Tennessee nuts rule at 6@ 6½c, according to quality; Virginia 7½@8c; shellbarks are easy at $1 25@1 50 ₩ bushel; walnuts depressed at 30@40c ₩ bushel; hazel nuts $3 00@4 00 ₩ bushel.

POTATOES—There is a good demand for Californias, the only kind offering, with ready sales at $3 75@4 00 ₩ box, as to quality.

POTATOES—Trade continues dull and rather unimportant, the arrivals of car lots being limited, and the jobbing trade from store rather unimportant. We quote nominally peachblows on track at 40@42c per bushel; Early Rose 40@45c; Peerless 40@45c. From store sales were made of peachblows at 45@48c.

PROVISIONS—There was very much restricted to-day, and under a good demand the prices were sharply advanced, especially for dressed. Some sales were made as high as 20c for turkeys which was an extreme case. We quote dressed chickens 13@14c ₩ lb; turkeys 16@18c; ducks 14@15c. Live chickens 45@55c per pair by the coop.

VEGETABLES—Onions in fair supply in the stock and dull. We quote at $1 15@1 20 ₩ barrel. Dried green peas are quoted at $1 60@1 75 ₩ bushel. Turnips $2 25@2 50 ₩ bushel. Cabbage 40c ₩ bushel. Parsnips 60@70c ₩ bushel.

Provisions.

The business still continues limited to immediate consumptive wants and there is not much of interest to note in our local provision circles. Prices are easy in sympathy with the one of other markets, but continue quotably unchanged.

CURED AND CUT MEATS—Hams, extra sugar-cured, 15c; shoulders, do, 10c; breakfast bacon, do, 14c; dried beef, do, 14c; chef Longues, sugar cured, $6 75 ₩ dozen; plain shoulders 10c; sheriff ill-sides 12½c; clear do 13½c; mess pork $21 00 ₩ bbl; family mess $21 00; short cut $21 00 ₩ bbl.

LARD—Prime leaf, tierces, 13½c ₩ lb; do half bbls 14c; 3 ₩ caddies, 16½c; 5 ₩ do 16½c; 3 ₩ pails, 17½c; do, 5 ₩, 17¾c; do, 6 ₩, 17c. Hamsausage 9½c.

LARD OIL—The market is easy. We quote extra No. 1 lard oil, cash, 65c; do, 60 days, 1 gallon. No. 1 do, 56c; No. 2, 52c.

TALLOW—We quote caterers' tallow at 10@ 10½c; choice country rendered 9@9½c; medium do 8½@9c.

DRESSED HOGS—Are coming in rather sluggishly and selling steadily at 5 ½ @ 6c per lb; this point we desire to call the attention of country shippers to the fact that they cannot be too careful in selecting and shipping their lots. They should see that they are properly dressed and placed in clean cars, with sufficient straw underneath to keep them from getting marked. Care should be taken to ship hogs of nearly an equal weight, either heavy or light, as such lots command much better prices than rough, uneven lots, although the latter may be worth the money if they were well fatted and clean lots are presented for sale, and can be guaranteed as such by the seller; it naturally results in a loss of weight between buyers, and finally in their rejection at the point of delivery. They should be marked with care, so that no trouble will arrise on their arrival here. A list of weights should be forwarded by mail or other means obtained, as it is impossible to sell consignments unless accompanied with a list—buyers will not make a bid for them. If country shippers will bear with care in their selections and in their shipments, they can find a ready sale for their produce in the country and here.

Petroleum.

January 5—The firm feeling in both branches of the petroleum trade continued to-day, although no quotable advance was reported in crude. The tone of the crude market was, however, rather in the direction of improvement although there was some settling from the extreme advance of the previous day.

CERTIFICATES—There was a sluggish rather quiet tone to the demand, which was strengthened by the apparent responsiveness of the Eastern markets to the advance of the previous day. Prices were about at the closing prices of the previous day. We quote certificates at $1 58¾@1 60; Union and United do $1 57¾@1 58¾; Grant, Relief and Pennsylvania at $1 56@1 56¾; inside buyers bid $1 56 and 1 57¾. Sales and resales to the aggregate of 30,000 barrels were reported.

REFINED—The market was firm in sympathy with the advancing tone of crude, and the improved reports of the seaboard markets. We note a material advance in quotations, standard white rolling at 20@20½c on the cars. New York delivery rules at 13¾@ at the early. Philadelphia rules at 13¾@13¾c.

OIL BARRELS—Are somewhat firmer at $1 15@ 1 20 for city; $1 06@1 10 for country.

(By Western Union Telegraph.)

OIL CITY, January 5.—The *Derrick* says: During the morning a decidedly more buoyant feeling prevailed and the crude market, as to oil region, and quotations rapidly advanced to $1 58¾@1 61¾ for nearly all well certificates of the Associated lines for January and Union certificates. Early in the afternoon the feeling became more settled and prices ruling at the new Prentice well in Bradford district. United closed at $1 56¾ bid, with sales at $1 57¾ for the two principals. Certificates of Union were in good demand at $1 57¾; the last heard was at $1 58¾, and closed at $1 58¼ bid, 1 56¾ shipment—Car and river delivery sympathized with the fluctation in well certificates. There were dealings in both at 72c during the morning, and at 82¼@83¾ during the afternoon. The sales were 80,000 barrels.

TITUSVILLE, January 5.—The *Courier* says: This was another very active day in the oil paint market and transactions throughout the region were very large. United opened at 56¾, sold down to 56¼, and closed strong at 56¾. Union closed at $1 57¾. Conduit at $1 58¾ and Prentice lines at 56¾. Upper country sold in small and immediate shipment at $1 58¾. The total sales were 50,000 barrels.

NEW YORK, January 5, closing 4.—The market is up again fully 1¢ and closed strong with considerable more fresh offered and this tends to the increased export demand. The confident views of sellers restored business. Crude in bulk 7¾@7¾c for prompt; do in small lots, under 10 bbls, refined 13¾c; cases 17¾@19¾c; naphtha 8¾@9c. Baltimore refined is quoted at 12¾@13c; at Philadelphia 13¾@13¾c.

TITUSVILLE, January 5.—Market held strong at $1 82½.

TITUSVILLE, January 5.—Market firm; quoted at $1 56@1 56¾.

ROUSEVILLE, January 5.—Market firm at $1 75@1 77½.

OIL CITY, January 5.—Market firm; United at $1 57¾; shipment $1 85.

OIL CITY, January 5.—United $1 57¼; Oil City at $1 82½.

PHILADELPHIA, January 5.—Market quiet; standard white (150 test) 20 cents. Sales 15c.

[By Associated Press.]

NEW YORK, January 5.—Petroleum firmer with a better demand; crude 7¾@7¾c; refined 13¾@13¾c; closing at 13¾@13¾c.

BALTIMORE, January 5.—Petroleum strong; crude 7½c; refined 13½c.

PHILADELPHIA, January 5.—Petroleum firmer; crude in barrels 7¾@8c; refined 13¾@13¾c.

LONDON, January 5.—Refined petroleum 11½d.

ANTWERP, January 5.—Refined petroleum 31¾ francs.

CLEVELAND, January 5.—Petroleum firmer; 110 degrees test 95½c; State test 103½c; Michigan State test 13¾c.

Groceries.

There is a moderately fair movement in staple groceries, the only change of importance being in the sugar market, which is somewhat easy. In other respects the market is steady with a fair movement. We quote current rates as follows:

Green Coffees.	₩ lb.	Do. extra C	10½c
Fancy Rio	25 c	Extra C—yel	10¾@10¾c
Choice Rio	24 c	C—yellow	9¾c
Prime Rio	23 c	C—yellow, B	8¾c
Good Rio	22 c	Cut Loaf	12¾c
Ordinary Rio	21 c	Crushed	12¾c
Common Rio	20 c	Powdered	11¾c
Roasted Coffees.		Granulated	11¼c
Rio, in papers	25 c	Coffee A	10¾c
Continental	25 c	Fully fair do	8¾c
20 grades do	25@27 c	Prime fair do	8¾c
Java, Au Pantes	35 c	Choice fair do	9¼c
Java, in bulk	35½c	White clarified do	10 c
		Teas.	
Young Hyson	45@60 c	Str'g ch. N. O	60@75c
Gunpowder	60@70 c	Prime	50@75c
Imperial	50@60 c	Good	40@50c
Japan	40@60 c	*Syrups.*	
Oolong	25@40 c	Ex. white drips	20c
Fancy	1 00	Sugar drips	60c
Souchong	35@60 c	Lower grades	35@50c
		Spices.	
Cloves	60 c	Pearl	6¾@6¾ c
Allspice	18@19 c	Pepper glass	20@22c
Cassia	32@35 c	Corn	10½c
Nutmegs	1 25	*Rice.*	
Pepper	25 c	Choice Car'la	7¾@8 c
		Patna	7¾@8 c
Soda.		Rangoon	7¾@7¾c
Bi-carb. in kegs	5 c		
Bi-carb. in 10 ₩ pkgs	5½c	*Soaps.*	
Bi-carb. in 5 papers	7 c	Irish soap, ₩ box	$4 25
		S. S. Star, ₩ box	5 75
Candles.		Babbitt's best, ₩ box	6 50
Star, full weight	18 c	St. Charles do	6 75
Stearine	16 c	Do. N. Y. City, ₩ box	4 50
Sperm	40@42 c	German mottled	7@7½c
Sugars.			
Standard A	10½c		
Standard B	10¾c		

TOBACCOS—A moderate movement continues to characterize this line of goods, without quotable change in values. We quote as follows:

Manufactured—		Six Twist	43@55c
Spun rolls	60@65c	Smoking—Granulated	50@75c
Black Navy	55@65c	*Leaf Tobacco—*	
Solace Navy	57@60c	Western leaf—	
Louisville Navy	62@68c	wrappers	15@20c
Louisville Cav	68@70c	Wrapping	9@12c
Virginia Navy	68@70c	Ohio seed wrap	9@12c
Virginia Tens	58@65c	Ohio seed filler	5@6c
Virginia Cav	60@65c	Connecticut	15@20c
Double Thick	62@68c	Conn. (choice) wrapper	60@75c
Flounders	53@56c	Conn. fillers	12@15c
Bright pounds	50@60c	Havana wrap	$1 25@2 50
Black Quarters	57@60c	Havana filler	85c@$1 25
Rough & Ready	50@55c	*Cigars—*	
Fine Cut plugs	70@80c	Penn'a. seed	@$50
Fine Cut	55@60c	Connecticut	@$50
Cut and Dry	50@55c	Seed & Havana	30@ 36
Scotch Snuff	65@75c	Havana	@$150
Black Snuff	60@65c	Spanish	@$150

Fish—Is somewhat easier in sympathy with its fish, with a good demand. We present the following revised list of quotations:

	Per bbl.		
Extra No. 1 Mess		Labrador herring, spiced	$ 5 50
mackerel	$34 00	Round do	6 50
No. 2 mess do	32 00	Lake herring	4 50
Ex. No. 1 shore do	28 00	Smoked lake	2 00
Ex. No. 1 bay do	22 00	Large George's codfish, ₩ lb	6½c
No. 1 bay do	15 00	Medium do	6 c
Ex. No. 2 do	16 00	Boneless codfish	7 c
No. 2 do	15 00	Large No. 3 do	14½c
Large No. 3 do	11 00	No. 1 herring, ₩ box	40 c
Medium do	9 75	Scaled herring, do	50 c
California salmon	9 50		
Labradors	9 50		

CANNED GOODS—There is a good demand at steady prices. We quote: Tomatoes, 2-lb cans ₩ doz, $1 00; peaches, 2-lb cans, ₩ doz, $2 25@2 50; corn, 2-lb cans, ₩ doz, $2 25; Lima beans, 2-lb cans $2 25; string beans, 2-lb cans $1 90; cherries, 2-lb cans $2 25@2 50; blueberries, 2-lb cans $2 25; strawberries, 2-lb cans $2 00; raspberries, 2-lb cans $2 25; asparagus, 2-lb cans $3 75; pineapples, 2-lb cans $2

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 1876.

THE exports from Philadelphia last week amounted to $276,146.

THE Titusville *Herald* asks, "What foul fiend possesses the Democratic party?" The party is simply self-possessed.

A DOCTOR in Cincinnati writes a column and a half to the *Gazette*, of that city, urging the abolition of horses as a dirt-creating nuisance. He must be an ass.

THE value of the exports from Boston last week was $504,290. The total exports of the year amounted to $34,729,415, against $29,065,592, an increase over 1874 of $4,663,823.

THERE is a good *deal* of anxiety to learn the decision of the United States Supreme Court on the Granger cases, which is expected upon the reassembling of that tribunal.

THE commercial statistics of Boston for 1875 show arrivals of 2,150 vessels, against 2,548 in 1874. The foreign clearances last year were 1,990 vessels, against 2,501 for the preceding year.

RELATIVE to the third term lunacy, if the Democratic party disclaims responsibility for its army of thieves, why should it insist on holding the Republican party responsible for its handful of fools?

CANADIAN immigration has decreased during the year in nearly the same proportion as here. In 1873, 206,351 immigrants were entered, and in 1874, 140,357. This year not more than 85,000 have been registered.

THE receipts of the Government from customs and internal revenue, last year, exclusive of the last two days, show a decrease in the former of about $4,500,000, and in the latter of $7,000,000, over the corresponding period of 1874.

THERE were far fewer business changes throughout the country this year than is usually the case with the incoming new year. But few new firms have been formed, mercantile business just now offering no particular inducements for fresh ventures.

THE exports of Boston last year were larger and the imports smaller than they were respectively in the preceding year. The grain trade of that port is suffering severely for want of tonnage, though it is but a few years since that the tonnage of Boston far exceeded its ability to employ it.

THE tabular statement of the exports of Great Britain to this country during the eleven months of last year ended November 30, which has just been published by the Bureau of Statistics, shows a continued falling off in nearly all the commodities which constitute the bulk of our imports from that quarter.

IN BOSTON the January dividends, which are about the most satisfactory gauge of the condition of business during the past six months, more than hold their own with those of previous years. Ten million dollars will be paid out by the various corporations during the next few days, and this certainly ought to impart a healthful glow to business generally.

ONE of the most encouraging signs of the times is that public sentiment demands the exemplary punishment of fraudulent bankrupts, mendacious speculators and plunderers of the people's treasury. The new year has opened in the midst of a war upon corruption, and it is to be hoped the battle may be waged with relentless vigor until every swindler and defrauder has met with his just deserts. "Let no guilty man escape."

THROUGHOUT nearly the entire North vegetation is being misled by the prevailing ethereal mildness. On every side in the country may be seen the trees and shrubs with their apparently leafless, bare branches, but scan them more closely and one may observe the tender buds shooting forth as if to welcome the New Year. Further comments are deferred until the season has passed from mid-winter.

ALL the papers are talking about what is best for national civilization and development during the new century of life on which the country has just entered. To our mind the most important feature of the work before us is in education and morals. We shall have to bear a strain in these departments within the next quarter of a century that will tell for weal or woe on the most vital forces of the Republic.

A WASHINGTON correspondent, speaking of the questions at issue between our Government and Spain, says that "there seems to be some secret hand at work endeavoring to operate upon the minds of the Spaniards, who hate us any way, and whose antagonism is only kept down by the constant efforts of the Spanish rulers." There is no secret about the matter. The money-mongering influences of Wall street are undoubtedly at the bottom of it.

THE gradual approximation, by the cutting down process, of our imports to the measure of our exports, is a healthful sign. No permanent business prosperity can be expected while we hold the position of a debtor nation. It is only our endless resources that have enabled us to struggle against this unfortunate position. We should now have been vastly richer and more prosperous had we always insisted that our foreign trade should balance itself.

THE latest Centennial proposition is the publication of a genealogical record, embracing all the descendents of all the Mayflower band down to the beginning of the present century. It is perhaps questionable whether the project is feasible; but, if carried out, it would undoubtedly reveal to thousands an honorable ancestry which they never suspected, and, by tracing the ramifications of intermarriage through successive generations, would show that a large number of the men most eminent in the field, the forum, the pulpit, and the editorial chair are descended from the sturdy Plymouth stock.

HERE is a rule which will enable everybody to find out the day of the week upon which any event fell a hundred years ago. Count forward two days from the day of the week upon which the Centennial anniversary falls. Thus, the 4th of July, 1876, will fall on Tuesday; the 4th of July, 1776, was Thursday. The centennial anniversary of the battle of Bunker Hill was celebrated Thursday, June 17, 1875. The battle was fought Saturday, June 17, 1775. The rule must not, however, be used for dates in the eighteenth century earlier than 1752, that being the year when the change from the old style took effect in England and her colonies.

A CORRESPONDENT takes the ground that "one of the greatest defects of GRANT's character assumes a positive nobility—his steadfast belief in his friends." We do not so read the matter. Nobody believes the President to be personally venal and corrupt, but it is of painful record that he has repeatedly blundered most outrageously in his choice of men to fill important public offices. He has seemed to like to have men about him with easy consciences; and if he could not see that something was likely to go wrong with such fellows as JOYCE and MCDONALD, it argues very poorly for his moral competency, that is all.

THERE is the same complaint of Ultramontane opposition to the public school system, elsewhere, that there is here. The Melbourne *Argus* of November 3 says:

"Every political question has been declared by Archbishop Goold and his lieutenants to be subordinate to the one great object of securing the overthrow of the existing State system of education. Hence it follows that any candidate who is supposed to be receiving what is called the Roman Catholic vote, finds it necessary to make a sort of public apology for the doubtful honor, and explain that he is guiltless of the intentions which the reception of such vote would seem to indicate."

THE *Iron Age* prints a carefully prepared review of the course of the metal markets during the past twelve months, showing that the tendency of prices in the markets for manufactured irons has been toward a point below the cost of production, including interest and contingencies, and that even with lower wages few manufacturers whose mills are running on merchant bar have made expenses during that period. The rail mills have also suffered from the depressed condition of the railroad interest, and have found orders difficult to obtain at prices figured on a very close estimate of cost. It is earnestly to be hoped that the year on which we are now entering may witness the inauguration of a different state of things.

THE O. A. U.

The New York *Evening Post* prints the following as having been received from the officers of the "O. A. U." It would seem to be conclusive as to the actual existence of the order, and is the first authoritative statement of its principles. The denial of all connection with the third term folly should be conclusive on that point.

There are millions of voters in this country who can heartily say "Amen!" to the principles herein set forth, but very few of them can be brought to approve the formation of a secret society to promote them. There is said to be a right and a wrong way to do every thing, and it is decidedly the wrong way to advance these principles by backing them up with the mummeries of a secret political order. We quote:

"NEW YORK, December 28, 1875.

"The National Executive Committee of the Order of the American Union deem it advisable to promulgate a summary of the principles which underlie and energize their actions as citizens and as members of the order.

"They do not here advance arguments in defense of these principles, nor offer apology for holding them; they simply state them, leaving the question of their acceptance or rejection to every man's judgment and discretion.

"The issues raised by this enunciation of principles are neither new or extraordinary; nor will their announcement raise either new alliances or new antagonisms. The issues presented are as old as the Reformation, the interests involved are identical.

"I.—We accept the Bible as the basis of all moral, religious, governmental and educational undertakings.

"II.—We yield an unhesitating support to the Constitution and Government of the United States and of the several States.

"III.—We urge that the present system of our general unsectarian free school organization shall be maintained inviolate.

"IV.—We claim that no part of the public funds shall ever be used for the support or maintenance of any sectarian school or institution whatever.

"We are opposed to any interference in political affairs by any man or body of men acting in behalf or by direction of any ecclesiastical body or power, yet we make no war upon any man's religious creed.

"The object and purposes of our order are the very simplest. We give no name of publicity. The ways and means of conducting our business matters, the methods by which we propose to secure the desired results are peculiarly our own, and we intend to keep them to ourselves. Third term or one term, 'Democracy or Republicanism,' 'Hard money, or soft money,' 'Crooked whisky or straight,' are entirely outside of our aims and plans, and receive no attention whatever.

"To sustain and advance the ideas above enumerated we propose to use all lawful and suitable measures at all times that to us seem to be propitious, with all persons who labor for their triumph, against all agencies which seek their overthrow and destruction. As in the past, so for the future, we invite, and expect to receive the co-operation and aid of thousands of sturdy, stalwart, patriotic, thoughtful men who love their country with an ardor surpassing that of party, sect or clan.

"GEORGE D. WEEKS, President.
"HIRAM E. HOLT,
"Brooklyn, N. Y., Secretary."

IN AN address on "Popular Education" in its relation to our form of government, delivered by Dr. PEABODY before the Massachusetts Educational Association at its recent annual meeting, the venerable speaker, dwelling on the fact that universal suffrage is inevitable, here, said:

"Every man of twenty-one years of age has and will have a vote, and while there are—and shameful is it that it is so—men of culture and of property who remain away from the ballot-boxes, there is no one of the ignorant and irresponsible citizens who is not bribed or dragged or drugged into giving his vote whenever there is an election to be had."

Perhaps the gravest cause of apprehension for the future of the country lies in this political supineness of our better classes of citizens. It would almost seem that those who have the greatest property and social interests at stake, and who ought to be most alive to the peace and good government of the community, are, as a rule, the most careless and apathetic. Too often the very men who ought to give tone and direction to politics do not feel sufficiently interested to cast a ballot. It is no wonder that we have corruption, fraud and intimidation at our election precincts when the moral power of the community on election days shuts itself within doors. That, in a country like ours, there will be shrewd rascals, all history has proven; that in the absence of popular vigilance they will manipulate offices, our experience has shown: but that we have the remedy within reach is also true beyond question. But the trouble is that the very men who on account of their integrity ought to be foremost in the reform, are the hindmost. They consider political work out of their line, and as a consequence the people groan under heavy burdens, and the cries of dissatisfaction resound throughout the land. We have not, however, as DR. PEABODY would seem to have done, lost faith in the basic integrity of our people, nor in the perpetuity of our institutions. Our rulers and officials are as good as the average community. It is the morals of the people that need toning up. And already the nation is beginning to open its eyes. The land has fallen into grave excesses, and has suffered greatly from corruption, but reaction is setting in, and the changes promise to be speedy, thorough and lasting. Beginning with the popular life it will ascend into our public places, in our corporations, our municipalities, and our General Government. There is cause for profound gratitude in that we have as yet good men in office whose official characters are models of public purity. Secretaries BRISTOW, CHANDLER and JEWELL have extended their vigilance through all the ramifications of their departments. The dark things are being brought to light and extirpated, and pure blood is circulating to the very extremities of the service. All these are happy omens of a brighter future; while, in the increasing watchfulness of the people at large are embraced alike the prophecy and the potency of a new era of national greatness.

THE Secretary of the Treasury has fitly closed the year by an act of supreme justice in requesting the Third Auditor and the Second Comptroller of the Treasury to resign. It was through the negligence, or worse, of these officers, that the Sugg Fort and Witowski fraudulent claims were passed; and the surest way to prevent such blunders hereafter is to punish, by removal, those officers who committed them.

The next step should be to remove the inquiry into such claims from the bureaus of the Treasury to the courts. They are all the proper subjects of judicial inquiry and scrutiny, and cannot be examined as they should be except in court. They would, in that event, have to stand the test of publicity, from which they escape altogether by the present method.

And the next step beyond that should be the entire abolition of either the Auditors' or Comptrollers' Departments in the Treasury. One was originally designed as a check upon the other, but that purpose has not been attained. The Comptrollers are the mere duplicates of the Auditors, and it is folly to employ two men to do one man's work.

The present cumbrous organization of the Treasury Department was borrowed, by ALEXANDER HAMILTON, from the English system, and it necessitates the employment of twice as many men as are needed for the work that is to be done. The system could be very much simplified, and the force reduced, without impairing the efficiency of the Department or interfering with the maintenance of a proper system of checks and balances. The accounts of a quartermaster, a commissary, or any other disbursing officer, have to be examined by three separate details of clerks in three several bureaus, when one thorough examination would be sufficient; and it would be hard to tell why a requisition upon the Treasury should have to pass through about twenty different hands, and be covered all over with indorsements before it can be paid. The system of checks and balances is right, in itself; but it has been immensely overdone in the Treasury Department.

The beginning of the second century of our national existence may fitly be characterized by a return to greater simplicity in the details of public business. We can see no actual need for an army of clerks at Washington, where each department can turn out for parade a force sufficient to constitute two full regiments, and it is high time, in our judgment, to get back to our condition before the war, and carry on the Government on a peace establishment.

THE results of the Government geological survey of the Western Territories, this summer, are described as being unusually rich, particularly in the discovery of prehistoric cities. There have been found in regions never before visited abundant traces of these mysterious and unknown peoples. Along the San Juan and its tributaries, or the rivers into which they flow, were discovered cliff houses and cliff villages in great numbers. Some of these were found with portions of their roofs complete, and so fully were all the parts identified that it will now be possible to accurately restore one of these villages. One of the members of the expedition is now engaged upon this work, and a miniature cliff, with one of the most perfect of these villages, is being constructed by him, from actual measurements and photographs, for exhibition at the Centennial. Plaster casts will also be taken for a number of the principal colleges and museums of this country. The interest excited in Europe in these surveys of the Territories has been quite as great as in our own country, and applications are received daily at the Interior Department, and at the office of the survey, for reports and photographs. Indeed, the attention of scientists throughout the world is now earnestly fixed upon the progress and the discoveries of these national surveying parties.

THE late annual convention of the State Dairymen's Association, at Meadville, was the most interesting and important meeting ever held by that extensive and growing agricultural interest. Dairy conventions are prominent among the educators of the farmer. They furnish a stimulus and incentive to aim at a high standard of perfection, and excite an honest and healthy competition; producers and dealers are brought together, learning the peculiarities of each, and the wants and interests each represents. Matters varying so much in their requirements and dealers so much in their ideas, producers are often in doubt as to the best course to pursue. That the wants of the markets are not adequately understood is proven by the great variety of cheese shown at the State fair last fall. The recommendation made last year to the Vermont Dairymen's Association that a convention of dealers should furnish a standard of size, shape, color, texture, etc., for each of the leading markets, has some good features. Such standards could be easily furnished, and losses arising from this lack of knowledge are often great. The great value of these conventions is in the lessons learned by interchange of ideas.

AN INCREASE of some four hundred per cent. having been made in the rate of taxation in Chicago over that of last year, the property owners of that city are rising *en masse* against the outrageous imposition. The returns of the assessors, however, show that many taxpayers are returned for from five hundred to a thousand per cent. more taxes than some others who usually carry and own stock and values from two to five hundred per cent. heavier than they. A correspondent of the *Times* suggests that a statement of all the taxpayers on personal property be published, as in Cincinnati and other cities. If this were done some of the firms who rate themselves in the fifties and hundreds of thousands would be found to be comparative paupers, unless they have perjured themselves extensively. Uprisings of this character are worth watching, chiefly for the reason that they show there is a point where public opinion is always strong enough, when things come to the worst, to shake off bad government and establish in its place something better.

THE annual statement of the gold and silver product of the Western States and Territories for last year, including British Columbia and the western coast of Mexico, places the aggregate yield at $89,899,037, an increase of $6,487,982 over the product of 1874, and the greatest yield ever known. A yield of ninety millions is expected for 1876, of which Nevada will produce fifty millions. In view of the rapid increase in silver product, the question what shall be done with the currently falls into new importance. The silver mines in Nevada have ore enough in sight to keep all the miners that can work there busy for years, and with the appliances they have discovered for getting it out, and the amount they are certain to put on the market for years to come, comes with the owners of the mines a great anxiety as to what they will do with it. A Washington correspondent states that a number of Pacific coast capitalists are already on hand at Washington with the purpose of introducing a bill, which they expect to carry through Congress at this session, making silver coins an unlimited legal tender in payment of debts.

THE Washington *Chronicle* has a two column double-leaded editorial, evidently inspired from official sources, in which, after noting that Secretary BRISTOW has been lauded to the skies in the New York *Sun* and *Tribune*, the following hint occurs:

There can be no question that Secretary Bristow's position in the Cabinet depends on the will of the President. It was he who selected him from private life, first to the Attorney Generalship and then Secretary of the Treasuries, in no doubt, has full confidence in his ability, integrity and loyalty to the Administration, and the praise of these newspapers is distinctly annoying to Secretary Bristow as they are suspicious to the public. So many eminent men in the history of the country, during the past few years, have been politically wrecked by the delusion that they were the same class of political hybrids, that the people have come to look with suspicion upon any man whose acts meet their commendation.

If this does not mean the removal of the Secretary of the Treasury, what does it mean? It is a plain reminder to him that his head is in danger.

THE latest Suez Canal rumor is to the effect that DISRAELI has been acting in the interest of the Jewish people, and under the impression that he is to be a leading instrument in bring about their promised return to Palestine. The acquisition of so large an interest in the Suez Canal is, it is said, but the first step toward acquiring a paramount power for the English nation in Palestine, and, that once secured, the long-prophesied return of the Jews need not, and naturally would not, long be delayed. There may possibly be something in this, but it is doubtful. The ablest Jewish paper in this country—the *Hebrew Leader*—maintains that the Jews have strength-ened by dispersion, and that they will never return to Palestine. It appears, moreover, that Mr. FREDERICK GREENWOOD, the editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, a former co-laborer with THACKERAY on the *Cornhill Magazine*, is really the originator of the transaction for which DISRAELI is receiving credit. After all, the real ruler of the world is the press.

THE official exhibit of the canal commerce of Buffalo for last year, shows the total exports of flour and all kinds of grain from that port to have been 35,778,020 bushels, while those for 1874 were 41,357,498 bushels, a decrease of 5,579,478 bushels. In the coarse freight movement there was also a decline, the shipments of staves being only 77,934,443 for the season, while in 1874 they were 159,220,204. The exports of lumber also fell from 80,081,776 feet in 1874 to 65,485,338 feet last year. The shipments of pig iron, however, show a large increase; also the receipts of anthracite coal from the East by canal. The live stock trade of the city held its own. The receipts of cattle were 8,936 head in excess of those for 1874, and the arrivals of sheep were also greater than those of 1874 by 57,200 head. There was a falling off in hogs of 364,500, but the prices ranged so high that the money value of the business transacted was only $1,200 less than that of 1874.

"GRANT is wonderfully dignified and patriotic. He publicly announced that he would turn out Democrats, whether office under Civil Service Reform, and give place to the Radical officials of the House who were turned out of their comfortable berths. There is so much Grantism in this that it surprises no one."—*Post.*

Why not put the statement fairly, and say that the Democratic House of Representatives threaten to discharge all disabled Union soldiers in its service, substituting for them Confederate soldiers, and that the President proposes to retaliate by retiring Democratic employees from the departments, filling their places with the loyal disabled soldiers so removed? These are the facts, and all loyal citizens should seriously consider them; they show in what direction the drift is running. The brave, disabled soldiers who stood at the front, battling for our liberties, must now take a back seat. This is Democratic loyalty and Democratic gratitude.

IN AN elaborate article on the financial and commercial outlook of the year upon which we have just entered, the *United States Economist* expresses the belief that it will be marked with a general improvement in business. That paper says:

"We may have several failures and suspensions, but none of a character to inspire alarm. There is a very large amount of commodities in the interior awaiting transfer to the seacoast. The drain of currency to the South has not yet ceased, but it will begin to flow back about the close of January. The mercantile demand for money is one of the most hopeful features of the situation; and for the first time in a long period business men begin to feel confidence in the future."

The *Bulletin* discourses in a similar vein, concluding, upon the whole, "that the past year has brought us comparatively near to a period of industrial and commercial restoration, and that the things to be feared are much fewer and those to be hoped for more numerous than they were a year ago."

LAST year there were in operation 74,023 miles of railroad, an increase of 22,125 miles since 1870. Within those five years we built and equipped more miles of railroad than in any previous ten succeeding years. Of the increase in question over 18,000 miles was in the years 1871-72. According to the *Railroad Journal* the past year was a considerably more prosperous one for railroad companies than its predecessor. That paper says:

"The year has witnessed a wholesale and wholesome liquidation of broken-down railroads. Several have been organized through foreclosures, and the process now going on in regard to many railroads is a healthy one. During the year California, with only one-fiftieth of the population and capital, has built a third or fourth of all the new roads in the country, and is still pushing new lines in various places. Over 5,000 men are now engaged upon the construction of the Southern Pacific road. This industry has evidently gone backward as far as it is going, and now every impulse is forward toward renewed prosperity."

SUNSET COX has been talking about the men in Congress who are known outside of politics. He says:

"Congress is very different in that respect from Parliament or the Cortes. Gladstone has ability and finds time to interpret classic poets, and Castelar writes a history of the growth of republicanism in England, but in Congress, the only man whom I can think of as having other status than that of a business or a professional man, is Seelye, of Connecticut, who has a reputation as a political economist. I am about the only man that ever takes a dash into literature."

SAM'S modesty borders on the marvelous. Even as a browser on the outer confines of humor he has proved but little else than a failure. He claims to possess a "transcendental spirit," whatever that may mean; but so also did the beer-logged Dutchman of Patchogue, described by THOREAU—"who never lost his wits or his equanimity, but blurted forth some happy repartee, like an illuminated swine."

THE *North American* mentions a new system of insurance which has been introduced into France, and been found to work well. It says.

In brief the conditions are these—the company agrees to replace loss by fire *only when the fire does originate in the property insured.* The proposition is startling enough at the outset, but carefully examined has more in its favor than at the first glance the rates are very much reduced, in accord with the limitation of risk; in the second, the great bane of interested incendiarism is avoided, wiped out in fact, for no man would be willing wantonly set fire to property and suffer personal loss; thirdly, the insurer by himself and trusty agents is ever on the watch to prevent carelessness in the matter of combustible articles. No mill-owner, for instance, would permit an accumulation of old greasy rags in stray corners if fully insured" against anything at all to him in case of a fire through their agency, nor would any prospective bankrupt attempt to cover up a deficiency, or a prevarication of value, by incurring a total absolute loss.

THERE is a growing belief that the appointment of MORRISON to the Chairmanship of the Committee on Ways and Means was only a shrewd dodge by which FERNANDO WOOD is left the real Chairman. In his recently published book on Fort Sumter, General DOUBLEDAY relates the following suggestive story of this virtual leader of the Democratic party:

"I heard with profound indignation of the cruel manner in which Mr. Wood, of New York who had been sent to jail in Charleston, simply for stating that she did not believe in the institution of slavery. On one occasion, when I met him and visited Fernando Wood, he replied that he was rejoiced she was in prison, and hoped she would be kept there."

OHIO NEWS.

The "Immortal J. A." is on his travels again.

It cost $1,119 53 to clean the streets of Cincinnati last week.

Col. S. D. Harris, formerly of the *Ohio Farmer*, has opened a newspaper agency in Hudson.

Inmates of the Butler county Infirmary are maintained at a cost of fourteen cents per day each.

The rain storm on Sunday caused destructive overflows in several streams in Southern Ohio.

A detachment of colored troops left Columbus Barracks on Wednesday for San Antonio, Texas.

Thomas and Mary A. Stone, of Mingo Farm, near Urbana, celebrated their golden wedding on the 9th inst.

The total number of hogs slaughtered in Cincinnati during the season to date is 328,950; same time last year, 328,285.

The inmates of the Northern Ohio Hospital for the Insane were favored with a visit from Santa Claus, Christmas eve. The patients all received presents, and manifested great delight.

After a six weeks' discussion the Chillicothe City Council has entered into a contract with the Gas Company for the period of one year for gas in street lamps and private consumers at three dollars per thousand feet.

The policemen of Columbus have not been paid for about four months. The *Journal* thinks that they will soon become so used to it that they can live, support their families and guard the interests of the city without any remuneration at all.

The death by diphtheria of Miss Lulu, daughter of General Wm. T. Wilson, Comptroller of the State Treasury, is announced. She was a charming young lady of seventeen summers. Three of her sisters were at death's door, of the same disease at the same moment.

Three men, Crooks, Panyard and Harthorn, were arrested on suspicion of having robbed the house of Mr. Imboden, near East Greenville, recently. During the preliminary examination, Harthorn made confession of the crime, and implicated several others besides those under arrest. The parties are held for trial.

Rev. Elisha B. Andrews was inaugurated as President of Denison University, at Granville, on the 28th inst. His inaugural address, the theme of which was "Denominational versus State Colleges," he took strong ground against State control of higher education, claiming that denominational college management is better for both moral and financial reasons. Intellectual culture, he said, without religion cannot build character. The great need of the nation is moral force. The divorce of culture and religion is forced and unnatural.

Cleveland property owners are protesting against the laying of any more concrete pavement. They say in their remonstrance that concrete laid in 1874, on a foundation of broken stone, has had to be extensively repaired three or four times since being laid, and has, wherever laid in the city, shown itself greatly lacking in durability, and is, in their opinion, otherwise undesirable as pavements. The *Herald*, speaking of the general reference in the remonstrance to the great lack of durability of concrete pavements laid in the city, says it is sustained by the facts.

POLITICAL.

State.

It sounds very funny to hear the Pittsburgh *Post* crowing so lustily and crowing all also re for Judge Black as the next President of the United States.—*Pottsville Journal.*

General.

The Bucyrus *Journal* thinks Ohio may furnish both Presidential candidates in the coming struggle. Senators Sherman and Thurman are both in favor of reform.

Democratic Congressmen talk of an adjournment by May 1st. They will need a little rest before entering upon the arduous labors of the stump.—*Springfield Republican.*

The Boston papers are waxing eloquent over Faneuil Hall as the place for holding the National Republican Convention. That would be a chilly place to get up a third term fervor in.

An enraged Eastern Democrat says it was a great blunder to elect Kerr Speaker. The blunder goes further back than that. It was made by the people in electing a Democratic Congress.

The New Hampshire correspondent of the New York *Times*, reviewing the political situation in that State, says: "Though the contest will be close, the Republicans are likely to be well united this year, and will work with zeal and enthusiasm, inspired by a very strong hope of complete success. They are in far better trim than they have been for the last two years."

The "Ledger" Almanac.

As in former years, so now, the Philadelphia "Ledger Almanac" is promptly on hand at the opening of the new year. The one just received retains all the valuable features its predecessors, while some new and very important ones have been added, noticeably a guide to Philadelphia, which will be of no little benefit to strangers visiting that city during the Centennial. The pamphlet is neatly printed, with a handsome cover, and deserves to be preserved as a work of reference. A copy of it is sent to every subscriber of the *Public Ledger*, an edition of 110,000 being required for the purpose.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

NEWE DAIES, NEWE WAIES.
(From Spenser.)

The weary yeare his race now having run,
The newe begins his compast course anew;
With shew of morning mylde he hath begun,
Betokening peace and plenty to ensew.
So let us, which this change of weather vew,
Change eke our minds, and former lives amend;
The old yeare's sinnes forepast let us eschew,
And fly the faults with which we did offend.
Then stand the newe yeare's joy forth freshly send,
Into the glooming world, his gladsome ray:
And all these storines, which now his beauty blend,
Shall turne to calmes, and tymely cleare away.

The enviable Californians had strawberries with their New Year's turkey.

A Boston paper has a column headed "Chips." It should be illustrated with wood cuts.

California rejoices in green peas, also tomatoes and cucumbers, and string-beans, and asparagus.

Barnum's old "Lightning Calculator" has come out against Jersey lightning on the temperance platform.

The school children of America annually pay $50,000,000 for school books, of which it is said the publishers pocket $33,000,000.

The skins of the *mephitis Americana* are all the odor for furs in Europe this year, 300,000 having been sold in London alone.

"Mrs. Hon. Congressman" is the modest and tasteful way in which the wives of some of the "members" print their cards.

A bonanza. Sam Ward, king of the Washington lobby, has just come into $10,000 a year, by the death of his daughter.

What will the adulterators of food do next? They have had the audacious meanness to counterfeit even Graham flour.

There will be good sleighing at Alta, Utah, when the snow gets nicely settled. The last fall lies twelve feet deep on a level.

And now California proposes to adopt a constitutional amendment limiting the amount of county, town and municipal debts.

A new departure has been inaugurated by some of the foreign Ministers at Washington. Sunday sociables or levees are now given.

In Central Iowa they have commenced electing a United States Senator by popular vote. The first returns are in favor of Belknap.

In Massachusetts valuations are falling so fast all round that the rate of taxation is likely to be higher this year than for some years past.

Restitution. More than four centuries ago the Maid of Orleans was burned at Rouen as a witch and sorceress. Now she is to be canonized.

The reported election of Commodore Vanderbilt to the presidency of the Canada Southern Railroad, is a canard entirely without foundation.

Retribution? The originator of "excursion trains" in England was killed the other day, by being run over by an engine attached to one of these trains.

Correct. The Philadelphia city authorities have determined to allow Independence Hall to pass into the possession of private individuals or a society.

The only house of Milton's now standing, is at No. 19 York street, Westminster, and came very near being burned down the other day. It is a mere hovel.

The darkness of great cities. Forty-nine murders were committed in New York city last year, and there were 165 cases of drowning, not including suicidal drownings.

The Boston January dividends fall but a trifle short of the dividends of a year ago, the shrinkage being less than the reduction of the cost of living within that time.

The American Bible Society ought not to complain of the hard times. Its receipts for the past year were nearly $600,000, and it issued almost 1,000,000 copies of the Word.

The famous plain of Marathon has just been drained with complete success. The existence of the marsh explains the defeat of the Persians by so small a force of Greeks.

The *Christian Advocate*, of New York, the leading Methodist organ of the country, takes ground boldly in favor of the complete secularization of the public schools.

Decay. Bermuda Hundred, on the James river, which figured so largely during the war, has dwarfed into a cluster of negro hovels. Only one white family remains in the place.

The quantity of wheat at the seaboard ports or in transit at the close of last year did not vary much from those of the preceding year, being 6,651,098 bushels, against 6,227,152 in 1874.

A non-sectarian education bill now before the New Mexico Legislature is meeting with violent opposition and is likely to be killed by a combination of the Roman Catholic members.

The Internal Revenue Bureau has completed its comparison of whisky stamp issues with the books up to May last, so that all the frauds committed up to that time have been discovered.

The street railroads of Philadelphia are beginning to arrange for the Centennial business. Six of them will run cars to the Exposition grounds every minute, making four hundred cars an hour.

It is pleasant to learn that pauperism is decreasing in England. In that country and Wales the paupers are as 827,446 to 23,580,000, a large proportion, but a marked decrease in twenty-six years.

The fifty odd thousand colored people of New York alone furnish twelve centenarians. This gives one centenarian to every 4,500 negroes, while the white population only furnishes one in 45,000.

Hadley, Mass., puts in a claim for a valuable centennial relic in the identical parade sword of the British General Burgoyne, whose army was defeated and captured at Saratoga, during the Revolution.

The *Churchman* insists that no edifice should be called a church which is under any indebtedness. If this is to be the criterion of judgment the Lord owns a good deal less real estate than is generally supposed.

PERSONAL.

Mrs. Oates is said to be engaged to the son of a prominent clergyman in Philadelphia. It will be remembered that she secured a divorce from her husband about a month ago, during her engagement in this city.

A sight for the gods were four Massachusetts yeomen before a justice, last week, for smashing up the barn of a fifth yeoman who had won the heart of a lass whom they were all after. But it wasn't the lass's fault; she couldn't take them all.

Bishop Stephens, of this State, has just ordained as deacon in the Episcopal Church, Mr. Ben. T. Hutchins, recently a major in the United States cavalry, prior to that a colonel of the First New Hampshire Cavalry, and still earlier reporter on a Boston newspaper.

Mrs. Joyce has reached Washington with a letter from ex-Governor Fletcher to the President. It is alleged in Western telegrams that she intends to apply for her husband's pardon, and has important letters inculpating Babcock, which she intends to use in the former's favor. There is no truth whatever in the story.

The other day an old man died in Atlantic City, Wyoming Territory, and a Rev. Mr. Buck delivered the funeral sermon, for which he received five dollars, and within fifteen minutes from the close of the sermon he was in a saloon playing poker with the five dollars. That evening he was nine hundred and sixty dollars winner. The people there think Buck a mighty fine man.

This is a scene on the doorstep of a Portland Doctor, as related in the *Advertiser* of that city: "Is the Doctor in?" "He is not, at this moment," said the Doctor's wife. "What shall I tell him when he returns?" "Well, ye see, mum, me little b'y was sick a shpell ago, and the Docther came to him an' he tould me thin he would die, an' he did die; an' now the wife is tuck sick, an', be gorra, I want him to pass the same judgment on the ould woman."

THOSE were curious days (one hundred years ago in London), and nothing in them was more curious than the manner in which gentlemen dined when they proposed to devote the after-dinner period of the evening to seeing life. On one occasion a preliminary banquet took place at the Blue Posts, when the guests drank after salmon, Glenlivat whisky, after mackerel, sherry, throughout dinner gin punch, with the cheese a glass of port, after dinner a glass of old rum, and finally, at dessert—which consisted of olives, toast and deviled biscuits—port at discretion. Then the company went the rounds of the sporting public houses, where, in maintenance of their character as Corinthian Blades, they purchased silk handkerchiefs—the colors of intending combatants—and tickets for prize-fighters' benefits. They also, it appears, drank more spirits, which (because they were adulterated) made them wake next morning with splitting headaches.

NEW YORK FASHIONS.

The New Year and Its Receptions—Holiday Toilets—The Antique Mania—Novelties.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]
NEW YORK, December 31, 1875.

THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

All the brightness of winter, to very many in the large cities, clusters around the holidays, crowding them with varied and pleasant duties, but leaving the months which follow them a blank and dreary waste. It is rather unfortunate for the large class whose brief intervals of enjoyment only come to them by a species of foreordination, that Thanksgiving and Christmas and New Years are set in such close proximity, for it makes the time and money necessary to do each of them justice difficult of achievement; it fills a few weeks with sweets to satiety, and makes the long winter, and prosaic spring which follows (in Northern latitudes), harder by contrast.

Few would be willing, however, to relinquish any part of the joy which is associated with the holiday season—the anticipation, the preparation, the "coming home," the gifts, the brilliantly decorated shops, the Christmas trees, the wonderful stockings, the bonbons, which for once children are allowed to eat unreproved; and as a finality, the New Year's receptions, not much, and growing less every year with ultra fashionables, but still cherished by "old" families, and by busy people who do not make calls or attend receptions every day, and who, in the increasing solitude which attends crowds and the march of modern civilization, gladly cling to the beautiful and hospitable custom which binds them to the past.

New Year's day, in the most unruly families, is "mother's day;" the children monopolize Christmas, blow tin trumpets at dawn and make earth jubilant with noise to their hearts' content, but it is on the conditional that they will be "good" at New Year's, allow the lace curtains to hang in symmetrical folds, and not clamor for the "nice things" when they are present.

New Year's day is a great possession to women who exchanged the honors of a small bellship and the admiration of a circle for the range afforded the wife of a poor and struggling man. For that one day, at least, she puts aside care, the anxiety to make ends meet, calls backs brightness to her eyes, puts a touch of coquetry in her dress, and wonders as she tries the effect of a ribbon that has not been becoming, if she is really growing old so fast, and if the friends whom she hardly sees excepting upon this day, will discover it.

THE ORDER OF THE DAY.

Among those society people who still observe the custom of first of January calls, it is now usual to specify the hours of receiving. Formerly "open house" was kept all day, and it was not unusual for the family to be surprised at breakfast by the ringing of the bell, and a card from an early caller, who had a certain amount of social business to get through, and went at it as he would the footing up of his ledger, taking the figures first that came first and working his way through the list, the late years the hours for beginning have grown later, until now, as before marked, many ladies announce their New Year's receptions as a levee, commencing at 12 M., or 2, or 4 P. M., and ending at perhaps 10, 11, or 12 P. M. This gives them time to dress and attend to some of the inevitable duties which precede the special work of the day, and saves waste of time by condensing the calls which would otherwise have been scattered over a longer period. The frequent changes of residence in cities, and the difficulty of remembering many addresses, have made it incumbent upon ladies who wish to receive all their friends, to send out, not special invitation cards, but simple visiting cards, with name and address engraved upon them, as at once a reminder and evidence of their intention to observe the customary ceremonial. A quarter of a century ago there was a superstition in regard to wearing a new dress upon New Year's day; it was supposed indicative of good fortune for the coming year. But women are growing so wise, now, that they are less superstitious, and there are few if indeed any that would acknowledge that any fear of consequences induced them to obtain a new dress for the occasion, or postpone the making of one, until close upon the propitious day.

The observance of New Year's day would undoubtedly stand a chance of longer continuance if a little more motive could be put in it, and something fresh and original be provided for the New Year's greeting. A "Happy New Year," or "compliments of the season," and a remark about the weather, become a little monotonous after about the fiftieth time, and one makes one's brains for something different. But there is no time or opportunity for attended conversation; remarks must be general, must be commonplace, until it is a real relief for some one to come who says he is tired, and hungry, and has selected your house for a lunch, and yourself for a chat, and we close so all unconscious of the very great compliment he pays his hostess, and of the certainty that he will be remembered when the crowd are forgotten.

RECEIVING IN GROUPS.

The most delightful method of receiving is in groups of three or four ladies together, one of whom, at least, should be young and unmarried. An air of brightness and beauty is communicated in this way, which adds a great charm, and makes conversation, or, rather, lively talk, less difficult. But they should avoid being all in funeral black, for this alone exercises a depressing influence, and creates an atmosphere of gloom and monotony which resists every effort to overcome it.

There are no laws in regard to dress on New Year's day, but black has become so nearly the livery of intelligent, refined women of moderate means while in the city, and of those that it preponderates in nearly all social assemblages, with the exception of balls. If black must be worn, put white lace or fine white pleating with it, at the neck and wrists, and a little color—pink, blue, violet or scarlet—so that the eye may be relieved, and not come from the light of day into dark, unfathomable depths.

Refreshments ought to be varied, and consist of such articles as gentlemen enjoy. Cake and wine only are an insult to their understanding and digestion. Few eat at every house they enter, but when they set out to make a number of calls, they would find it convenient to lunch somewhere, if their lady friends had their tables furnished with materials for a lunch. Pickled oysters, sardines, Saratoga chips, cold tongue, little bologna sausages, Rockport cheese, will not go amiss with a hungry man; but all, without exception, sicken at the sight of the inevitable "cake, and table" sherry.

Of course the table must look pret